

Hafa Adai!

Chinese national fails to escape ports police. **PAGE 2**

MVA backs controlled visits to the Grotto. **PAGE 5**

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXVII, Issue No. 7

www.saipantribune.com

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 11, 2017

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75¢

Another tax lien vs TDHC owner

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

The owner of the now-defunct Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino allegedly owes the U.S. Internal Revenue Service \$15 million for tax period ending Sept. 30, 2016.

IRS filed on Monday a notice of federal tax lien against Hong Kong Entertainment (Overseas) Investment Ltd. before the U.S. District Court for the NMI.

According to court documents, taxes have been assessed against HKE and that the IRS has made a demand for payment of this liability,

but it remains unpaid.

"Therefore, there is a lien in favor of the United States on all property and rights to property belonging to this taxpayer for the amount of these taxes, and additional penalties, interest, and costs that may accrue," said revenue officer David Choi in the notice of

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Torres, Calvo to host gala for Trump-Pence

By **JON PEREZ**
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REPORTER

The Asian American and Pacific Islanders advisory committee, or AAPI, will be hosting the 58th Presidential Inauguration Gala next week at The Mayflower Hotel in Washington, D.C.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Gov. Edward J. B. Calvo of Guam co-chair the AAPI.

The gala will be held from 6pm to 11pm. Republican

Party legislators in the 115th U.S. Congress will also be attending.

Torres will be leaving for the U.S. capital on Jan. 16 to also attend the inauguration of President-elect Donald J. Trump and Vice President-elect Mike Pence.

Before the inauguration, Torres is scheduled to meet with members of the Presidential Transition Committee and other key GOP leaders where

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Economy key for Rota, Tinian senators

By **JON PEREZ**
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REPORTER

The economy remains a key issue for Rota and Tinian sena-

tors and they hope the current development Saipan is experiencing would trickle down to their respective jurisdictions.

This much was a focal point

in the organizational sessions the Senate and House of Representatives did last Monday on Capital Hill.

Sen. Paul A. Manglona,

Senate Vice President Steve K. Mesngon, and Teresita A. Santos represent Rota, while floor leader Francisco M. Borja and Sens. Francisco Q. Cruz and Jude U. Hofschneider are their counterparts on Tinian and

Aguiguan. Everyone, except Manglona, are GOP members.

Sen. Paul A. Manglona (Ind-Saipan) thanked his constituents—whether in Sinapalo and Songsong villages, Saipan and Guam, and from Hawaii

to the U.S. mainland—for sharing their concerns.

"I have met many of you whose stories and challenges I will never forget. You shared with me your concerns about

See ECONOMY on Page 4

Propst on animal abuse: It's just very sick



By **ERWIN ENCINARES**
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REPORTER

Coming on the heels of a story about a dog with a rock tied to its neck and left to drown, another case of animal abuse has surfaced and reported to the animal welfare group Saipan Cares for Animals in early January.

A puppy that is believed to be 5 weeks old has been found with wounds in its neck and face. It was reported that somebody attempted to slash the dog's face open with a knife. The puppy's wound on its neck is so deep that muscles beneath the fur could be clearly seen.

Rep. Ed Propst (Ind-Saipan), who has been working to enact animal protection legislation in the Commonwealth, said the incident is "just very sick."

The incident has only deepened Propst's desire to reintroduce his proposed

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A 5-week old puppy has a cut on its forehead and neck. The *Saipan Tribune* opted not to show the wound on this dog's neck because of its graphic nature.

INSIDE



BUSINESS

The world shifted a decade ago when Steve Jobs pulled the first iPhone.

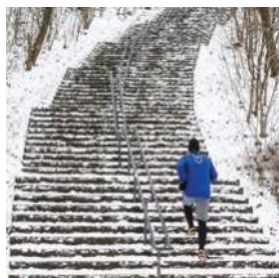
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NATION

Joyce Brown was 12 when her parents first took her to visit the "drive-thru tree."

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WORLD

Heavy snow and frigid temperatures have gripped large parts of Europe.

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Local

Chinese national fails to escape ports police

A foreign national reportedly jumped over the fence in the smoking area of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport last Jan. 6 after being denied entry by immigration.

Commonwealth Ports Authority executive direc-

tor Chris Tenorio, along with other unofficial sources, confirmed the incident.

Tenorio, when asked by *Saipan Tribune*, declined to provide further details about the incident.

"[CPA] cannot say any-

thing at the moment. I am just waiting for [Commonwealth] Ports Police to submit the report to me," said Tenorio.

Unofficial sources said the Chinese national, who was denied entry to the CNMI, jumped over the fence at the

smoking area, crossed the runway, and jumped the fence going toward Obyan Beach before being seen by a passerby.

The passerby then informed the Ports Police, which caught the Chinese national and brought him back to the airport.

The Chinese and Russian visa waiver program has exponentially increased the amount of tourist arrivals in the CNMI, with the former leading in numbers of overall tourist arrivals.

Chinese tourist arrivals

were at its peak last fiscal year 2016, with numbers reaching more than 200,000—almost half of the total number of foreign arrivals in the CNMI.

Chinese nationals are also the leading nationality in tourist childbirths, at more than 90 percent of total tourist births in the CNMI. **(Erwin Encinares)**

Karidat wants sustainable food pantry

The lack of a viable and sustainable food source is one of the major concerns Karidat Social Services wants to address this year, according to its executive director, Lauri B. Ogumoro.

"Our biggest concern is giving food to those in need. We're trying to get our food pantry up and running and sustainable. We'd like to do that because there seems to be a great need," she told *Saipan Tribune* last Friday after the

non-profit accepted a donation from the United Filipino Organization.

Ogumoro said Karidat doesn't really operate a true food bank because it has no food to store for long periods of time.

"We get food and, in just a matter of three days, it's gone. We really don't advertise if we have food in the food bank; it's just through the 'coconut wireless.' A lot of people do call up

[asking if there's food]."

Unlike in the U.S. mainland, the concept of a food bank or food pantry is alien in the CNMI because of the logistics of shipping items to the islands.

"We don't need a warehouse at this rate and we're kind of discovering it's hard to have a food bank here because everything is shipped in and people don't really order a lot of extra stuff that they're not

going to sell. So it's not like there's an overabundance of extra food," she said.

Asked what type of food items Karidat needs, Ogumoro said canned food and non-perishable items are on the top of the list. They also accept sacks of rice, which they usually repack to give out.

She admits that the process of distributing food needs to be more efficient, as they only require their clients to fill out a form and the amount of food they get is based on the num-

ber of family members.

"We have to be stricter, though, in verifying," said Ogumoro.

Aside from donations, Karidat also gets money from Compact impact funding, which is money given annually to Hawaii, Guam, and the CNMI for hosting migrant Micronesians.

"Depending on how many Micronesians we serve, we get reimbursed by the U.S. government. It actually gives it to the CNMI government and they distribute it to us based on the number of Compact impact folks we serve."

Ogumoro said Karidat also gets money if they beg for it from the Legislature.

"If we say we're really short on funding for, like the women's shelter (Guma Esperanza), they usually come in and help. Individual congress-

men are really good in giving us some money as well."

Another source of funding are federal grants, which Ogumoro said they have to write themselves and funds the salaries of all 14 of its staff—five at the Karidat office in Chalan Piao and nine at the Guma Esperanza.

Karidat is a Northern Mariana Islands social services organization. It operates under the Archdiocese of Chalan Kanoa and was originally a project of bishop emeritus Thomas Camacho.

Aside from its social services operations, Karidat also runs the Guma Esperanza, which is a shelter for abused women and children.

Karidat is located in the 1st floor of the VSS Sablan Building, Chalan Piao. For more information about Karidat, call 234-6981. **(Mark Rabago)**

District court seeks status of Hillbroom's ice case in Palau

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona on Monday ordered Junior Larry Hillbroom yesterday to provide the court with the status of his criminal cases in Palau.

Manglona directed Hillbroom to provide the federal court and the opposing parties in his lawsuit copies of recent Palau court orders.

Yesterday's hearing was about Hillbroom's bid to ask for more time to respond to motions and to amend the scheduling order.

Manglona said Hillbroom submitted last Sept. 30 two orders from the Supreme Court of the Republic of Palau Trial Division. In the second order dated Aug. 1, 2016, the Palau Supreme Court authorized Hillbroom to travel to California and Idaho.

Manglona said the Palau court further authorized Hillbroom to travel to Saipan to attend the final settlement conference.

Hillbroom has filed a legal malpractice lawsuit in federal court against his former lawyers David J. Lujan and Barry Israel.

The Palau court has allowed the temporary release of Hillbroom upon posting a cash bail of \$275,000 and required him

to provide a copy of any notice of deposition, hearing or other court-required appearance for his lawsuits in the CNMI and other jurisdictions.

Hillbroom, who is now in his early 30's, is one of the four DNA-proven children of the late business tycoon and DHL co-founder Larry Lee Hillblom. He was recaptured in Palau hours after he allegedly escaped from police's custody last Feb. 19, just a few days after he was arrested over the seizure of \$160,000 worth of methamphetamine or "ice."

Hillbroom's mother, Kaelani Kinney, is a Palauan.

Hillbroom's name is spelled differently from DHL co-founder Larry Hillblom.

Hillbroom is suing Lujan and Israel for allegedly conspiring with a former trustee to inflate the attorney's contingency fee when Hillblom's fortune was undergoing probate proceedings in the Superior Court.

Hillblom, founder of DHL Express, died in a plane crash off Anatahan waters in 1995. His body was never recovered.

Approximately \$100 million in assets were distributed to Hillbroom in the settlement of the probate case for Hillblom estate. **(Ferdie de la Torre)**



SPRUCING UP THE PASEO

The whole stretch of Paseo De Marianas, the scenic walkway at the heart of central Garapan, is undergoing a four-day cleanup, courtesy of Imperial Pacific International, Ltd.'s Corporate Social Responsibility team. It was Marianas Visitors Authority that partnered with IPI-CSR for this initiative, which started on Monday.

IPI-CSR

NEWBORN HEARING SCREENING PROGRAM

Babies learn from the time they are born. One of the ways they learn is through hearing. When a baby is born with hearing loss, many sounds and voices are not heard, and the child's speech and language development can be delayed. CHCC implemented newborn hearing as a standard of care and all babies get their hearing screened shortly after birth.

Ask if your baby passed the test. If you have concerns or your baby needs follow up call 236-8709.

Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation

Printing funded by the Universal Newborn Hearing Screening Grant under the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Service Administration.



Castro wants to strengthen Neighborhood Watch program

L.J. Castro, the newly installed chairman of the 14th Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council, said that one of the concerns he wants to address during his two-year term is how to improve the Neighborhood Watch program.

The program unites community members within a village in protecting their homes, families, and neighbors by be-

ing the “eyes” of the village and looking out for potential criminal activities.

Castro, who is also a press officer at the Office of the Governor, said he knows first hand the importance of a Neighborhood Watch program, having been a victim of a burglary last November.

“The Neighborhood Watch ... can definitely make matters a

little bit easier in the community,” he said after being sworn in Monday at the Kiosku Roundhouse in Chalan Kanoa.

Robbers stole \$2,000 worth of items during the Nov. 28 burglary at Castro’s house in Finasisu.

Weeks before his inauguration, Castro said he and fellow councilman Diego Kaipat already discussed ways to im-

prove the program.

“We have talked about it and looked at ways to make it stronger. It was enacted a few years ago and it had a lot of promise. Even though we have a very able police force that does its best to address crime and public safety in the villages, there’s still a lot more that can be done and the municipal council hopes to make

it a stronger program,” he said.

Castro and Kaipat would also fulfill some of the plans that were left unfinished by the previous municipal council.

“One of the things that come about when a new term usually starts is old business doesn’t die when the last term passes on. There’s a handful of issues the 13th municipal council wanted us to look at and try to touch bases. Councilman Kaipat and I are definitely looking at those particular issues. Of

course, we have events lined up and one event in July that we’re hoping to stage is the conference in Pagan,” he said.

The “Konferencian Dinana Islas Marianas” was originally set last year; it was postponed because delegates from Guam were busy with preparations for the Festival of Pacific Arts and the Guam’s Liberation festivities. It would have gathered delegates from all the islands of the Marianas archipelago for a forum in Pagan. *(Mark Rabago)*

Bid to have theft case dismissed is denied

Peter Koichi Lemei’s bid to have his theft case dismissed on grounds of alleged destruction of evidence was denied.

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho ruled yesterday that Lemei failed to establish all three elements that must be shown for his motion to dismiss to succeed. Camacho cited the U.S. Supreme Court ruling in *Youngblood v. Trombetta*.

The factors are that the government acted in bad faith in failing to preserve the evidence, that the exculpatory value of evidence was apparent before its destruction, and that the nature of the evidence was such that the defendant would be unable to obtain comparable evidence by other means.

The Office of the Attorney General had charged Koichi

with misdemeanor theft for stealing a purse from a woman, while she was sitting in a friend’s garage playing cards last April 10 at about 5:30am.

Assistant public defender Tillman Clark, counsel for Lemei, moved to dismiss the case. As an alternative, Clark asked the court to bar the government from calling the alleged victim as a witness in this case.

Clark also sought sanctions against police detective Andrew Taimanao, the Department of Public Safety, and the government “in the interests of public policy.

Clark said dismissal is an appropriate remedy given the importance of the evidence and the inability of Lemei to reproduce it.

Alternatively, Clark said, the

court should order sanctions in the form of precluding the alleged victim from testifying.

Assistant attorney general Heather Barcinas opposed the motion.

It was already in the midst of a bench trial last August when Clark moved for a mistrial. Clark asserted that the government suppressed evidence when a witness testified that a police detective showed her with a photo lineup, but the detective denied it.

This prompted Camacho, who presided over the trial, to suspend the proceedings to hear the issue last Sept. 14. Last October, Camacho denied the motion for mistrial.

Camacho ruled that a continuance of the bench trial and re-call of witnesses will cure the law enforcement officer’s

failure to provide exculpatory evidence.

Exculpatory evidence refers to evidence favorable to the defendant in a criminal case that tends to exonerate the defendant of guilt.

Taimanao testified that he did not remember showing the witness any photographs, and that he was surprised to learn that the witness testified that she had been shown photographs.

In Lemei’s motion to dismiss, Clark said by finding that Taimanao’s testimony was credible and a witness testimony was credible, the court made a finding of fact that Taimanao showed the witness a photo lineup with Koichi in it, that the witness failed to identify Koichi in that photo lineup, and that such evidence was subsequently suppressed by the government.

Clark said no material have been discovered to Koichi despite the ongoing discovery request.

As such, Clark said, the only logical conclusion is that the evidence (photo lineup) has been destroyed and lost forever.

In denying the motion, as to the bad faith factor Camacho said he already found in his previous order that Taimanao’s failure to note the witness’s non-identification was inadvertent.

Additionally, Camacho said, there is no evidence of official animus or a conscious effort to suppress evidence in the record before the court.

The judge said although he found Taimanao’s actions to be inadvertent, the non-identification of Lemei by an eyewitness is potentially exculpatory evidence, the nature of which

would be apparent at the time of the non-identification.

As to the nature of evidence factor, Camacho said the defendant had access to both the phone line-up as well as the eyewitness’s testimony stating that she was unable to identify anyone in the photo lineup.


“These two facts taken together are comparable evidence,” Camacho pointed out.

Camacho said though the exculpatory evidence nature of the evidence was apparent at that time, Taimanao did not destroy the evidence in bad faith and Lemei has access to comparable evidence. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

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Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

Office of the Executive Director



INVITATION FOR BIDS

CUC-IFB-17-010

SAIPAN SEWER LINE REPLACEMENT PROJECT

(S-14-035)

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the replacement of sewer line in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project consists, in general of the replacement of asbestos cement pipe (ACP) in the area of San Antonio, Chalan Kanoa, and Susupe Village. The work shall be done not to disrupt the daily operation of the sewer discharge. The Project is to replace approximately ± 260 LF of existing 10-inch ACP, ± 2200 LF of existing 8-inch ACP, and ± 250 LF of existing 6-inch ACP, existing sewer manhole rehabilitation, installation of new concrete sewer manhole, 4-inch and 6-inch service lateral connections, installation and monitoring of wastewater temporary by-pass pumping system and road restoration.

This project is funded by a grant from the United States of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the approval for project award from USEPA.

CUC requires the Project to be completed in **300 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by a Site Visit is scheduled on **January 12, 2017 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **“CUC-IFB-17-010, Saipan Sewer Line Replacement Project”** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on February 02, 2017**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor’s preparation of a bid under the contract.

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier’s check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A **Payment Bond** of one hundred (100%) percent and a **Performance Bond** of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers’ questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI’s Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI’s Insurance Code.

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All responses to this IFB shall take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proponent awarded a contract. Successful proponents will be required to submit a copy of a valid CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor’s Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page: <https://marianaslabor.net/>. The proponents shall be required to comply with all applicable CNMI and Federal Laws.

All questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered Prospective Bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on January 17, 2017** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Birhen Martinez, CUC Water/Wastewater Senior Engineer – via email address birhen.martinez@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, CUC Purchasing Assistant via email address marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.


CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and to waive any defects in said bid documents, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO

Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN

Purchasing Administrator



Commonwealth Cancer Association

AWARENESS•EDUCATION•HOPE

2017 CCA Board of Directors & GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING NOTICE

The Commonwealth Cancer Association is inviting the community, cancer survivors, friends, and supporters to its annual general membership meeting on Thursday, January 19, 2017 at 5:30 PM at the CCA conference room in Gualo Rai.

The agenda will include the president’s 2016 annual report as well as the treasurer’s financial report. Immediately after the representations, election of four (4) board members will commence. Nominations for board members will be accepted in advance via email and/or on the floor.

To submit a board nomination, or more information contact CCA at 682-0050 or email at ccamarianas@gmail.com

Tudela nomination will be 1st order of business

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation will act swiftly on the nomination of Antonia Tudela to the 14th Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council.

Rep. John Paul Sablan (R-Saipan), who was the SNILD chairman during the 19th Legislature and will run unopposed for the same post in the 20th Legislature, made the promise.

Sablan said Saipan Mayor

David M. Apatang's nomination of Tudela to fill the unoccupied municipal council seat will be the "first order of business" the incoming SNILD will tackle once it organizes itself a week and a half from now.

Under the CNMI Constitution, whenever there's a vacancy in the municipal council, the mayor of Saipan, with the understanding of the mayor of the Northern Islands, makes a nomination to fill the vacancy to the SNILD and the nominee needs to be

confirmed by the local delegation.

Sablan said the SNILD can either outright vote on Tudela's nomination or refer it to the Judiciary and Governmental Operations Committee.

Apatang, in an interview Monday during the swearing in of L.J. Castro and Diego Kaipat to the municipal council, said he already forwarded to the SNILD his nomination of

Tudela last Friday.

Aside from her past work, Apatang also lauded Tudela for serving as acting mayor when he was away.

"We communicated regularly [when I was gone]. She called me and I called the office almost every day also

while I was in Hawaii to see what was going on. She advised me on what's happening and we pretty much



Sablan

worked well together," said Apatang.

For his part, Northern Islands Mayor Jerome Aldan said he supports Apatang's nomination of Tudela.

"She's no stranger to the municipal council and she's been serving for the longest time. ...She's one of our planning organizers for our

upcoming conference in Pagan (Konferencian Dinana Islas Marianas)," he said.

Apatang and Aldan's confidence in Tudela abilities was also reiterated by Castro, who was voted by acclimation as chairman of the current council with Kaipat as vice chairman and secretary.

TORRES

From Page 1

he would continue to update them on concerns and other issues affecting the CNMI.

The AAPI, during the hotly contested presidential campaign, worked directly with top officials of the Trump-Pence GOP ticket.

Torres and Calvo made recommendations to campaign officials on issues that concern Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. They also worked to make sure AAPI would support the Republican Party standard bearers.

The Torres administration,

as the only U.S. territory that supported the Trump-Pence ticket, along with the GOP-led leadership in the mainland, is also aiming to get key government posts in order to push for issues that affect the region.

Two key posts that are up for grabs are the Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas and Special Assistant to the President for Territories, which was part of the GOP platform adopted in last year's Republican National Convention.

Several individuals in the CNMI are qualified to get the appointments. Both positions would improve the

chances of raising issues and other concerns that have a direct impact on the Commonwealth and its people.

Elaine Chao, who will be the Department of Transportation Secretary, could also help the CNMI's cause after being a former member of the AAPI advisory committee.

Someone from American Samoa, Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and Hawaii—before its statehood—had already been appointed as Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas position but no one from the CNMI has gotten the post since it became a Commonwealth in 1978.

The Office of Insular Ar-

reas is responsible for administration of U.S. commonwealths, island possessions, and territories. They coordinate federal policy and oversee funds and programs of the freely associated status of the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau.

Puerto Rico, although a commonwealth and an unincorporated U.S. territory, is not under the OIA jurisdiction and has the Puerto Rico Federal Affairs Administration that coordinates with the Office of the Deputy Assistant to the President for Intergovernmental Affairs.

ECONOMY

From Page 1

families moving away from Rota because jobs are hard to find and off-island college students are having a tough time making ends meet," said Manglona.

Other issues that Manglona want to work on with his colleagues are Rota's sick residents not affording health-care, medical referral's lack of funds, the youth being introduced to drugs and alcohol, the high cost of basic goods and other commodities, the lack of basic infrastructure, and other hardships of the island's retirees.

"We have a lot of work ahead of us. I am looking forward to doing that work with each and everyone of you. My colleagues, we may not always agree on everything but we need to work together for a prosperous future of our Commonwealth and its people," he added.

Mesngon, one of the seven Republican senators in the Senate, shared the same sentiments and hopes to address issues that concern the youth, retirees, and the *man'amko* (elderly).

"Education, medical referral, and the retirees' pension are among the important issues that need our attention," said Mesngon. "And with a

growing economy, we hope the people of the Marianas would reap its benefits. We're going to work in order to get funding for education and our schools, and the medical referral program."

Santos hopes the 20th Legislature will focus on jobs creation to stem the exodus of people from Rota. "More than 3,000 left home nearly 10 years ago. It was a forced relocation, knowing the scarcity of opportunities."

Tinian's issues

Borja, who won his re-election bid, said Tinian's economy would also be at the center of their agenda.

Tinian was hit hard by the closure of Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino but things are looking brighter with projects by investors Alter City Group and Bridge Investment Group.

Cruz said the Senate must work on legislation that would improve the principles and functions of the three branches of government. "It is also paramount that within this foundation it will enable us to better the lives of the people in our community, improve public services that we ought to be provided, and better the state of the Commonwealth."

He added that emphasis should also be on fulfilling the government's obligations. "Obligations with the

Settlement Fund to prolong its life expectancy by securing the finances of all retirees and beneficiaries."

Hofschneider said the Senate should continue to work in improving the lives of people, this time by diversifying the economy. "In the 19th Senate, we made many strides in steering the CNMI on the right track to economic improvement. These accomplishments are reflected in healthier business activity in the last four years."

"We must be sustainable as we progress and we can achieve this by diversifying our economy. We must not put all our eggs in one basket, but rather seek to expand our focus."

Beneficial to all

Senate President Arnold I. Palacios (R-Saipan) said all members of the 20th Legislature want what is best for all. "We have our work cut out for us. I believe that I speak for all when I say that we all want what is best for the community and for our children."

"That is what motivated those who were here in the 18th Legislature to allow casino gaming on Saipan. The challenge now is to ensure that development of this industry works in the best interest of all," said Palacios.

"Not too long ago, Saipan's garment factories exported

the most polo shirts than any country in the world with revenues at an all-time high. Today, you will not find a single garment factory and not one shirt stitched and exported from Saipan."

Palacios said that they should enact laws that would protect the future. "We must enact laws and policies that... not only meet[s] the demands of the present but does so without compromising the ability of our future generations to meet their needs."

Sen. Sixto K. Igisomar (R-Saipan) said they must keep their focus to do what is good for the community. "We must continue to support common sense driven leadership to create policies that would improve public infrastructure and fulfill the government's financial obligations. I am for economic expansion but we must first become sufficient and efficient."

Sen. Justo S. Quitugua (Ind-Saipan) said "we must continue the good working relationship with the executive and judicial branches of government."

"And along with business and other community leaders, we can accomplish more through cooperation. We must remain committed to invest in education and infrastructure as well as fulfilling our obligations to our retirees."

TAX

From Page 1

federal tax lien.

Choi claimed that HKE owes Employer's Quarterly Federal Tax Returns in the amount of \$15,198.96.

Last October, IRS also filed a notice of federal tax lien after HKE allegedly owes \$593,821.39 in taxes covering the 2015 to 2016 tax period.

That same month, the U.S. Marshals Service was only able to seize \$595.84 from HKE bank accounts.

ABUSE

From Page 1

Animal Protection Act of 2015 in the 20th Legislature. The Legislature just had its inaugural session last Monday.

"I am going to ask my colleagues in the House to move expeditiously on this [bill] because this bill has already been vetted. The Natural Resource Committee report of the 19th Legislature addressed concerns and the bill has passed the House unanimously before going into the Senate," said Propst.

Propst recognizes that the CNMI has yet to establish its own laws to protect animals. He believes he already has the support of Sen. Sixto Igisomar (R-Saipan).

"I have spoken with Sen. Sixto Igisomar via email so [the CNMI] can finally once and for all have animal protection laws set up to address cases like this," he said.

Propst said he is frustrated to know that the latest culprit, although known to animal rights activists, cannot be charged with anything because of the lack of animal protection laws in the CNMI.

"It is deeply disturbing and disheartening that we know who this person is but the police is powerless, they can't do anything, they can't arrest him and charge him with anything," he said.

SCA president Beth Pliscou said she received a call reporting about the 5-week old puppy having deep cut wounds on its neck.

"We received a call from someone who said the own-

The U.S. Marshal Service seized the money shortly after the federal court ordered the clerk to issue a writ of execution to attorney Richard W. Pierce, the counsel for two plane crash survivors, in order to collect \$1.4 million from HKE bank accounts.

A writ of execution refers to a court order that allows the collection of money or property owed by a judgment debtor.

HKE no longer has any employee working in the CNMI and that water and power to Tinian Dynasty has been shut off, according to court documents.

er left in the morning with this 5-week-old puppy on their property," said Pliscou. "When they returned home a couple hours later, they found their puppy had been brutally attacked by a knife, with someone attempting to kill it by cutting its throat open. [The caller] brought the puppy into SCA and we cared for it as best as we could, but this puppy will never fully recover," she said.

Future concerns

Propst said his desire to push forward with his animal rights bill is intended not only to prevent the abuse of animals, but also for the sake of people.

"When people do crimes like this, it shows that they have some sort of psychological problem. Some who torture and mutilate animals end up becoming killers," said Propst.

"That is why we have to look into this and try to nip it in the bud before it continues. You obviously have to be deeply disturbed to be able to do things like this. There is no way a normal human being would ever torture an animal like that. It's just very sick," he added.

Propst said he would be filing this bill early on in his term.

"I am most definitely pushing this forward and I am putting this forward as one of the first bills that I will be filing."

The CNMI is the only U.S. territory that has yet to establish animal protection laws. Propst's first attempt at establishing one for the CNMI was not passed by the Senate back in 2015.

MVA backs controlled visits to the Grotto

By **ERWIN ENCINARES**
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Marianas Visitors Authority supports the idea of having controlled visits to the Grotto and even prohibiting access to it in the evening.

The Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality found increased amounts of contaminants in the site a few months ago. That prompted MVA to express concerns to the bureau, Department of Public Lands, and the Division of

Parks & Recreation.

"We all [agreed] that something must be done to prevent or limit the damage [to the Grotto] as much as possible," said MVA managing director Chris Concepcion in a statement to *Saipan Tribune* on Sunday.

"The MVA views the Grotto as unique and distinctive and we strongly feel that steps must be taken to protect it from further impairment before it's too late," he added.

Concepcion said the Grotto was known as the second best cavern diving site a few years back.

There have also been talks about charging a small fee for nonresidents and tourists that visit the site.

"Similar to the DPL Rangers at Managaha who collect

a landing fee at the dock from all tourists, we are not opposed to having this same type of arrangement at the Grotto as long as the fee will be used for the upkeep and maintenance of the Grotto, for conservation efforts, and for beautification of the public areas including the lookout deck, staircase, pavilions, parking lot and restrooms," said Concepcion.

Concepcion wants the fee affordable and geared toward the Grotto's conservation, instead of for-profit.

"We caution against imposing an excessive fee that may harm our partners in the tourism industry, but I think we all can agree that the Grotto is precious and peculiar and must be shielded and safeguarded for future generations to enjoy," he said.

DPL has direct jurisdiction over the Grotto. MVA funds the security of the site from 8am to 5pm, the daily restroom maintenance, and the restroom water supply.

"We fund the water supply that must be delivered periodically since there is no waterline or public sewer system in the Marpi area," said Concepcion.

A suggestion to close the Grotto at certain times has also been talked about among government agencies.

"There is a suggestion out

there that the Grotto be closed at night to prevent vandals from damaging the site, to protect tourists from potential danger, and to add additional protection of the Grotto itself," said Concepcion. "We are not opposed to this proposal."

"Of course we expect to receive both positive and negative reaction from the community but if it's done right, I think DPL can make it happen, and in the end the people of the CNMI will know that our efforts were worth it," he added.

Improvements and repairs at AMP

American Memorial Park officials would like to inform the public that construction efforts are currently taking place around the park to make improvements and repairs to the Court of Honor and the tennis courts. This work will replace the main flag pole and flag lighting in the Court of Honor that were destroyed during Typhoon Soudelor and rehabilitate the lighting at the tennis courts. Construction is

expected to last through late February/early March. During this time, the Court of Honor and the tennis court will be closed for public access.

The Park appreciates the community's understanding during this time of construction.

For more information on park events at American Memorial Park, contact lead ranger Brooke Nevitt at 234-7207 x 2020 or email brooke_nevitt@nps.gov. (PR)

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT NO. 17-01

United States District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands
Docket Clerk / Relief Courtroom Deputy
with additive duties in Procurement or Finance

Permanent, Full-Time Position Location: SAIPAN, NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS (CNMI)
Grade: CL-24 Step 2 \$35,840 to CL-25 Step 2, \$39,579 starting pay depending on qualifications, plus 13.7% COLA (salary and COLA stated at 2016 rates).

Promotion potential to CL-27.

Opening Date: Jan. 6, 2017 • CLOSING DATE: Tuesday, January 17, 2017 at 12:00 noon

Position Overview:

Docket case information and managing the progression of cases to final disposition, in accordance with approved internal controls, procedures, and rules. Provide customer service to the bar and public, including records retrieval and processing payments. Perform electronic court recording, calendaring, attending and logging court proceedings, and processing orders. Assist with video teleconferencing, audio conferencing and electronic evidence presentation systems. Depending on applicant background and court needs, may be assigned additional duties as Procurement Assistant or Financial Assistant. Complete position description is available upon request, or via Internet at <http://www.nmid.uscourts.gov>. This position includes full federal employment benefits, with paid leave and holidays, health insurance, life insurance and federal retirement benefits.

Minimum Qualifications and Preferred Qualifications:

High School Graduate with two years of general work experience, plus one or more years of specialized experience in a court, law office or regulatory occupation, and significant additional training or experience in procurement, accounting, budgeting or finance. Additional preference will be given for college graduation and work experience in a court or legal environment. Applicants should demonstrate sound ethics and judgment, be able to communicate effectively (orally and in writing), and have skill in typing, use of word processors and spreadsheets, and using automated systems. Additional preference will be given for skill in using automated case management systems.

Citizenship Requirement:

Applicants are required to be U.S. citizens or aliens who are authorized to work in the U.S.

Notice to Applicants:

Excepted service appointments are "at will" and may be terminated by either the court or the employee at any time for any reason. Selectees are subject to a background investigation and suitability determination, and updated background investigations every five years. Employees are subject to the Judicial Code of Conduct. Direct deposit of pay is required.

Application Procedure:

Each applicant is required to submit a Cover Letter, Resume, and an AO-78 application form. AO-78 forms are on the Internet at: <http://www.nmid.uscourts.gov> or may be picked up at the U.S. District Court. Deadline for receipt of applications at the Clerk of Court office in Saipan is Tuesday, January 17, 2017 at 12:00 noon.

Deliver signed applications to:
Clerk of Court

United States District Court
for the Northern Mariana Islands
2nd Floor, Horiguchi Building, Garapan, Saipan

Or, email signed applications to:
HR@nmid.uscourts.gov

The United States District Court is an Equal Opportunity Employer.



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Office of the Secretary of Public Works

2nd Floor Joeten Commercial Building, Oleai, Saipan, MP 96950



INVITATION FOR BIDS DPW/SWMD17-IFB-001

Removal, Packaging, Labeling, Containment, and Shipping of Discarded Electronic Waste (E-WASTE) Collected at Lower Base Transfer Station, Saipan

Governor Ralph DLG. Torres, and Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog, through the Department of Public Works (DPW), is soliciting sealed bids for removal, packaging, labeling, containment, and shipping of discarded e-waste consisting of televisions (plasma, cathode-ray tube and flat screen), PC towers, monitors, keyboards and peripherals, copy and printing machines, VCR and CD player boom boxes, radios, stereo equipment, fax machines, desktop calculators, projectors, telephones, and other related electronic appliances and equipment from the Lower Base Transfer Station, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI). The shipping of e-waste is destined for either reuse, resale, salvage, recycling, or disposal to an end-processor firm in the U. S. Mainland or in a foreign government.

The Scope of Work will be available on or after **January 11, 2017** at the Solid Waste Management Division Office, Lower Base Transfer Station, Saipan.

All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages to bid on this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce/Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations currently in effect.

Breach of Ethical Standard

- **Gratuities.** It shall be a breach of ethical standards for any person to offer, give or agree to give any employee or former employee, or for any employee or former employee to solicit, demand, accept, or agree to accept from another person, a gratuity or an offer of employment in connection with any decision, approval, disapproval, recommendation, preparation of any part of a program requirement or a purchase request, influencing the content of any specification or procurement standard, rendering of advice, investigation, auditing or in any other advisory capacity in any proceeding or application, request for ruling, determination, claim or controversy, or other particular matter, pertaining to any program requirement or a contract or subcontract or to any solicitation or proposal therefor. **NMIAC Section 70-30.3-725 (a)**
- **Kickbacks.** It shall be a breach of ethical standards for any payment, gratuity or offer of employment to be made by or on behalf of a subcontractor under a contract to the prime contractor or higher tier subcontractor or any person associated therewith as an inducement for the award of a subcontract or order. **NMIAC 70-30.3-725 (b)**
- **Contingent fees.** It shall be a breach of ethical standards for a person to be retained, or to retain a person, to solicit or secure government contracts upon an agreement or understanding for a commission, percentage, brokerage, or contingent fee, except for retention of bona fide employees or bona fide established commercial selling agencies for the purpose of securing business. **NMIAC 70-30.3-730**

There will be a mandatory **Pre-bid Conference** for this project on **January 27, 2017, 9:30 a.m. local time** at the Solid Waste Management Division Office Conference Room, Lower Base Transfer Station, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the accumulation of e-waste at the Lower Base Transfer Station, Saipan. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:00 p.m. local time on **February 01, 2017** to Mr. Enrique Dela Cruz, Director of Solid Waste Management Division, Lower Base Transfer Station, Saipan, or fax to (670) 322-2762. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

Prospective bidders should examine and review the invitation for bids with care. If it should appear to a prospective bidder that the performance of the work under the contract or any of the matters relative thereto is not sufficiently described or explained in the invitation for bids, or that any discrepancy exists between different parts of the invitation for bids, or that full intent of the invitation for bids is not clear, then the prospective bidder shall submit a written request for clarification no later than ten (10) working days before the scheduled bid opening at 4:00 p.m. to Mr. Enrique Dela Cruz, Director of Solid Waste Management Division, Lower Base Transfer Station, Saipan, or fax to (670) 322-2762.

The prospective bidder shall examine carefully the site of the collection of e-waste and the invitation for bids before submitting a bid.

The Contracting Officer (CO) may, upon recommendation of the Contracting Officer's Technical Representative (COTR), issue an addendum notifying all prospective bidders known to have received an invitation for bids, or if issued after the deadline for submission of the notice of intention to bid, to those persons who submitted such notice, of any changes to the invitation for bids. The Department of Public Works will make every reasonable attempt to notify all persons who obtained the invitation for bids from the Solid Waste Management Division Office by telephone to pick up the addendum or if the CO chooses, the addendum may be mailed or delivered personally or by facsimile machine. If the bid proposal requires the acknowledgment of addenda, the prospective bidder shall indicate the date of each addendum in the space provided. **It shall be the prospective bidder's responsibility to confirm the existence of any addendum by telephoning the COTR at (670) 322-2745/2760 no later than ten (10) Calendar days before the scheduled bid opening.**

Sealed bids must be marked **"DPW/SWMD17-IFB-001"**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascension Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan, no later than **10:00 a.m. local time, February 15, 2017**. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **10:00 a.m. local time, February 15, 2017**, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **February 15, 2017** and the BID documents must be received at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **February 27, 2017**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascension Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan, at **10:00 a.m. local time, February 27, 2017**. However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at **10:00 a.m. local time on February 15, 2017**.

For bids, greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00) a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. Bid security shall be on a bid bond, in cash, by certified check, cashier's check or other form acceptable to the government. A surety company shall hold the certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. Surety requiring approval of the Attorney General must be pre-approved prior to bid submission. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations §70-30.3-245. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than \$25,000.00. Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit:

- a) A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond in the CNMI, and
- b) A certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceed the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P&S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract.

Acceptable assets are only:

- 1) Cash
- 2) US Gov't Securities
- 3) Stocks and Bonds traded on US Security Exchange
- 4) Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and
- 5) Irrevocable Letters of Credit

Performance time for completion of this project is **one-hundred-twenty (120) calendar days** upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages for delays beyond the established completion date will be assessed at the rate of **Three Hundred (US\$300.00)** for each day the work is delayed beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

JAMES A. ADA
Secretary of Public Works

HERMAN S. SABLON
Director of Procurement & Supply

Judiciary hosts seminar for freshman legislators

The CNMI Judiciary held its seventh Law and the Freshman Legislator seminar last

Friday, hosting the six newly elected legislators, all of whom will serve in the House

of Representatives.

The freshman legislators in attendance included Francisco

C. Aguon, Donald C. Barcinas, Ivan A. Blanco, Alice S. Igitol, Jose I. Itibus, and Gre-

gorio M. Sablan Jr.

The legislators heard presentations on the interaction of the Covenant and U.S. and CNMI Constitutions, statutory interpretation, the role of the courts, and the basics of legal research. The seminar concluded with a roundtable discussion with the judges and justices answering questions submitted by the newly elected lawmakers.

Presenters included Chief Justice Alexandro C. Castro, Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona, Associate Judges Kenneth L. Govendo, Joseph N. Camacho, and Teresa Kim-Tenorio, and executive director of the Law Revision Commission Sheila N. Tri-

anni. Associate Justice John A. Manglona moderated the seminar, while Associate Justice Perry B. Inos and Presiding Judge Roberto C. Naraja facilitated the roundtable discussions.

The legislators also had the opportunity to meet with Judiciary staff, including representatives from the Office of Probation, the Superior and Supreme Court Clerks' offices, Accounting department, and the newly established Drug Court.

Since its inception in 2004, the Judiciary's biennial program has seen the participation of 66 freshman legislators: nine senators and 57 representatives. *(NMI Judiciary)*



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The six newly elected representatives pose with the judges and justices of the CNMI Judiciary. Front row (from left): Rep. Donald C. Barcinas; Rep. Ivan A. Blanco; Rep. Alice S. Igitol; Rep. Jose I. Itibus; Rep. Francisco C. Aguon; and Rep. Gregorio M. Sablan, Jr. Back row, from left: Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona; Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo; Presiding Judge Roberto C. Naraja; Associate Justice John A. Manglona; Chief Justice Alexandro C. Castro; Associate Justice Perry B. Inos; Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho; and Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio.

After-school program at Kagman center

The Family & Youth Enhancement Program-Youth Services Section of the Division of Youth Services announced yesterday the ongoing after-school program at the Kagman Community Center.

The program kicked off with an open house on Dec. 16 and is scheduled on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 2:30pm to 5:30pm.

The program now has over 40 registered youth participants catering to students from the Kagman area, including student volunteers who are providing assistance to complete their school required community hours.

Aside from homework/school project sessions, the program also provides for youth prevention activities

that focus on literacy, art and music, career opportunities and cultural demonstrations.

Future program content will include healthy living through partnerships with the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. "Let's Move Marianas" and Northern Marianas College "Children Health Living" programs well as a variety of youth empower-

ment topics.

A special acknowledgement goes out to partners including the Kagman schools for participant recruitment, IT&E for internet services, Joeten-Kiyu Public Library for the weekly Bookmobile services and Chacha Oceanview Middle School shop class students for constructing window seats, tables, benches and book shelves as additional resource for the center. *(PR)*



Students from the Kagman area participate in activities and borrow library books during the beginning of the after-school program.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CALIFORNIA BAD BOYZ

America's hottest male revue live on Saipan for one show only

HAGATNA, Guam—Fury Promotions, along with Bud Light Lime-A-Rita and Grey Goose, presents America's hottest male revue in America, the California Bad Boyz, live on Saipan on Friday, Jan. 13, for one show only at the Hibiscus Hall of the Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan.

The California Bad Boyz

are known for their over-the-top, grand, Hollywood/Las Vegas-style productions. This is their first time making their way to the Marianas, and they promise to deliver a memorable and exhilarating show that you won't want to miss!

» Jan. 13, 2017, at the Fiesta Resort; doors open at 7pm, show begins at 8pm

to you by Fury Promotions, and is presented by Bud Light Lime-

rating show that you won't want to miss!

Doors open at 7pm and the show begins at 8pm. The California Bad Boyz show is brought

A-Rita, Grey Goose, Power 99, *Marianas Variety*, and the *Fiesta*. General admission tickets are \$35 and VIP tickets are \$45 and includes one Bud Light Lime-A-Rita. Tickets can be purchased at Iridescent Boutique in Garapan and Pena House, Chalan Kanoa. A portion of the proceeds will benefit Pride Marianas. *(PR)*

Martin Jambor, a native of the Czech Republic, is the new general manager of Kanoa Resort effective Jan. 4, 2016.

Asia Pacific Hotel Inc., which operates both the Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan in Garapan and the Kanoa Resort in Susupe, has appointed Martin Jambor as the new general manager of Kanoa Resort effective Jan. 4, 2016.

Drawing on more than a decade of experience in the hospitality business, including success at stylish addresses in Sydney, Australia and Prague, Czech Republic, Jambor is now responsible for all operations at the beautiful, 224-room beachfront property in Susupe.

Previously, Jambor was based at the Pavilion Hotel in Sydney where he began his career, and transferred to Front Office management positions at the Hotel Josef in his home country of Prague, Czech Republic in 2006. By 2009, Jambor held the position of operations manager and was successfully appointed resident manager at the Maximilian Hotel, an affiliate hotel in 2012. In 2014, Jambor moved across the globe to hold the position of resident manager of Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.

The latter assignment at Fiesta saw him realigning the Rooms Division structure of the 416-room property, while

successfully elevating service under the resort's TripAdvisor popularity to the second highest on island.

Jambor is a graduate of Cornell University's prestigious general manager's program, ranked as the hospitality industry's elite career advancement program. He holds an advanced diploma from the Kent Institute and Bridge School of Travel & Tourism in Sydney, Australia as well as a master's degree from Prague's Charles University.

Jambor is now responsible for the overall management of Kanoa Resort, ensuring that operations is run with maximum efficiency, profitability, and consistent high service levels while providing the best possible guest experience.

Kanoa Resort Saipan is part of Asia Pacific Hotel Inc., under the TanHoldings Group of Companies. Located in the heart of Susupe, the Kanoa Resort operates 224 guest rooms, two restaurants, two meeting rooms, a fitness center, pool with two waterslides, adventure zone activities, beach volleyball courts and a retail outlet.

Club C, DFS Saipan, CMLC Artha (Scuba), also have retail shops on property. *(PR)*

MCS alumni form AlumKnight Association

Mount Carmel School takes great pride in its rich legacy of alumni, many of whom have garnered admission into some of the world's colleges and universities and have distinguished themselves as noted leaders in business, government, and the community. Known as "AlumKnights"

after the school's mascot, these successful individuals are now giving back to their alma mater with the recently formed Mount Carmel School AlumKnight Association, headed by AlumKnight Charles V. Cepeda.

For Cepeda, it's all about giving back. "I attended here

and I want to see it flourish." Recalling how difficult he was at times, he said, "I owe it to all the principals and teachers who were patient with me, especially while I was here for my formative years. ... This is where my roots are."

Cepeda's daughter also graduated from Mount Car-

mel School and now his grandson is a knight. This motivates him to build a stronger link between AlumKnights and knights. "We want other AlumKnights to support their alma mater, but we also want them to connect more with current students, whether it be at sporting events, drama shows, or just being on campus. ... It's important that the students today see their past, and that AlumKnights see where the school is today."

True to his word, Cepeda and the association have begun planning the association's first signature event, the annual Night with the Knights fundraising banquet, scheduled for Saturday, Feb. 4, at Pacific Islands Club. The Night with the Knights will be the culminating celebration of

Catholic Schools Week 2017. The night will feature a music video montage of the school's history, raffle prizes, and entertainment.

The event will also include the announcement of the 2017 AlumKnight of the Year. Formerly known as the Distinguished Graduate Award, qualifications for the prestigious award were expanded to include AlumKnights who spent at least four consecutive years at the school. Past awardees include:

- Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan, the CNMI's Delegate to Congress,
- Former governor Benigno Fitial (1964)
- Former lieutenant governor and retired justice Jesus C. Borja (1967)
- The late governor Eloy

Inos (1967)

■ Former representative Felicidad Ogunoro (1968)

■ Architect and entrepreneur, Efrain F. Camacho (1969)

■ School leader Rita Kazuma-Guerrero (1969)

■ Merced Marcie M. Tomokane (1973)

■ Attorney Lucia Blanco-Maratita (1977)

■ Former lieutenant governor Diego T. Benavente (1978)

■ Attorney Brien Sers Nicholas (1979)

■ Physician Dr. Norma Ada (1984)

■ School leader Dr. Alfred Ada (1986)

■ Educator Dr. Debra Tudela Cabrera (1988)

■ Educator Dr. Dora Borja Miura (1990)

■ Educator Galvin Deleon Guerrero (1991)

■ Law professor Rose Cuisson-Villazor (1991)

■ Educator Elaine Cabrera Delacruz (1997)

■ Former representative, journalist, and community activist Christina Marie Sablan (1999)

Tickets for the Night with the Knights are \$50 each and can be purchased at the school's Business Office or from AlumKnights. For more information, call 234-6184 or email Priscilla Dela Cruz at presdelacruz@gmail.com. (MCS)



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The AlumKnight Association's Program Committee meet to plan the program for the upcoming "Night with the Knights," the school's annual AlumKnight fundraising banquet. Clockwise from bottom left, Victor Cabrera, Cyji Cepeda, Helene Manning, Priscilla Dela Cruz, and James Benavente.

NMC looks at improving all campuses

By **ERWIN ENCINARES**
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Northern Marianas College is planning to embark on a massive facility improvement project across all its campuses.

NMC president Dr. Carmen Fernandez shared with *Saipan Tribune* on Monday her plans to improve NMC facilities on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

Although a final plan has yet to be made, Fernandez assures there would not be a lack of parking space for the constantly growing NMC student population.

"For sure, there would be ample space for parking and the gym facility would still remain there. I plan to have an

atrium, so that if the students decide to be there and study there, they could," said Fernandez, referring to plans for the Saipan campus.

Fernandez declined to share details about the plans for the Tinian and Rota campuses, but said, "Also included in the facilities planning is Rota and Tinian."

Fernandez said master planning is key to the whole project, and "from that, [NMC will get] an estimate of how much the building would cost before going to financing and ultimately breaking ground."

The additional \$1 million the college got in the supplemental appropriations under Public Law 19-75 is a big help to starting the college's plans,

Fernandez said.

"\$1 million is just a small amount, but at least it would help us cover for the master planning, which is the most critical step. We are just going to start the process now," she said.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres signed PL 19-75 HB into law last Dec. 19, 2016. It appropriates more than \$40 million to various government agencies and programs. Authored by Rep. Antonio Sablan (Ind-Saipan), government agencies such as the Public School System, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., Commonwealth Utilities Corp., NMC, and retirees are among those that received a paycheck after the signing.

Ex-cop is sanctioned again for using 'ice' anew

One of the participants of the U.S. District Court's Drug Offender Re-entry Program was sanctioned again with jail time for once again using methamphetamine or "ice" and failing to report for drug testing.

At a drug court session, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona ordered former police officer Florencio Quitagua Richards to serve 14 days in the custody of the U.S. Marshal Service.

Richards just completed a 14-day custody last Jan. 3. The judge placed him on location monitoring starting from his release from custody to Jan.

17, 2017, the schedule of his next court session.

U.S. probation officer Gregory Arriola reported to the drug court that Richards failed to report for drug testing on Nov. 26, Dec. 2, and Dec. 3, 2016.

On Dec. 19, 2016, Richards admitted to using "ice."

Last March Manglona revoked Richards' supervised release and sentenced him to a term of time served for using "ice" again.

Richards was placed on 24 months of supervised release.

In August 2011, the federal court sentenced him to 24 months in prison for distributing "ice" while still an active officer.

On Jan. 30, 2014, Manglona revoked the supervised release of Richards and sent him to three months in prison with credit for time served for using "ice" again.

The judge ordered that after serving the three months in prison, the defendant would be placed on 33 months of supervised release.

In December 2014, the court revoked Richards' supervised release and slapped him with a nine-month prison term for violating his probation by repeatedly using "ice." He was then placed on 24 months of supervised release. (Ferdie de la Torre)



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The official banner for Mount Carmel School's "Night with the Knights," its annual AlumKnight fundraising banquet. The blue color reflects one of the school's official colors while the balls of light symbolize the light that the school's AlumKnights bring to their communities.



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
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Amendment #1
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY
OF
COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT FUNDS
FOR PROGRAM YEAR 2017

THIS ADVERTISEMENT IS PAID FOR BY NMHC WITH CPD FUNDS.

The Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, through the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) is announcing the availability of an estimated \$1,247,600.00 in Community Planning and Development (CPD) funds available from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. NMHC anticipates receiving an estimated amount of \$886,361.00 in Community Development Block Grants (CDBG); \$293,829.00 in Home Investment Partnerships (HOME); and, \$67,410.00 in Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funds for Program Year (PY) 2017.

The CDBG funds, authorized under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, may be used for a wide range of community development activities to revitalize neighborhoods, provide affordable housing, expand economic opportunities, and improve community facilities and services. However, use of these funds must meet at least one of the national objectives which include: 1) to benefit low and moderate-income families; 2) to eliminate slum or blight conditions; or 3) to meet other urgent community development needs.

The CDBG program requires a grant recipient to certify that it will minimize displacement of persons as a result of activities assisted with CDBG funds. The CNMI government does not plan on undertaking any activity which will cause displacement of person. In the event of any unforeseen displacement resulting from any CDBG funded activity, the CNMI government will comply with the requirements of the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970, its implementing regulation and applicable local law.

HOME funds may be used to create affordable housing through financing assistance, site acquisition or improvement, and rehabilitating existing residential dwellings as well as providing funds for new construction or purchase of a single family residential dwelling. Use of HOME funds must benefit low-income families.

ESG funds may be used to rehabilitate or convert to buildings into homeless shelters and for shelter operating expenses, supportive services and homelessness prevention and rapid re-housing activities. Use of ESG funds must benefit the homeless.

Applications for the use of CPD funds are available for pick up at the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) located in Garapan, Saipan; San Jose Village, Tinian; and, Songsong Village, Rota, beginning December 29, 2016. You may also obtain the application online at www.nmhc.gov.net in the section titled "Public Notice/Announcement" subsection "Community Planning Development"

Applications must be submitted to the NMHC Offices in Garapan, Saipan (Saipan Residents); San Jose, Tinian (Tinian Residents); and, Songsong Village, Rota (Rota Residents) by **March 31, 2017, no later than 4:30 p.m. Applications submitted after March 31, 2017, will not be accepted.**

A briefing will be conducted for interested applicants and for those applicants who have picked up an application for the use of CPD funds. The briefing will address the program requirements and regulations concerning the usage of CPD funds.

The schedules for briefing are as follows:

January 17, 2017, 6:00 p.m. for the island of Saipan
January 18, 2017, 6:00 p.m. for the island of Rota
January 20, 2017, 6:00 p.m. for the island of Tinian

(Note: Previous announcement had January 16, 2017, 6:00 p.m. briefing for the island of Saipan, because it is a holiday (Martin Luther King) we moved the briefing to the following day.)

We are encouraging all non-profit, for profit, and government service providers who are providing services to people with disabilities, homeless individuals, and emergency shelter administrators and operators to attend this briefing.

For residents living on the island of Saipan, the briefing will be held at the NMHC Office in Garapan; Residents living on the island of Tinian, the briefing will be held at the NMHC Office in San Jose Village; and Residents living on the island of Rota, the briefing will be held at the Rota Mayor's Office Conference Room in Tatchog.

Accommodations for disabled individuals or other non-English speaking individuals who wish to attend the briefing are available upon request by giving at least 24 hours notice prior to the meeting so that such needs can be arranged and provided. Additional inquiries, concerning the CPD program, may be directed to Ms. Zenie P. Mafnas, Deputy Corporate Director or Mr. Jacob Muna, Planning Assistant at 234-6866 or 234-7689.

/s/ Jesse S. Palacios
Corporate Director

USCG, Seychelles partner to improve port security

SINGAPORE—A U.S. Coast Guard International Port Security team completed a bilateral engagement with Seychelles government port officials in November 2016.

This engagement involved sharing best practices and visiting Seychelles Port Authority to observe the implementation of the International Ship and Port Facility Security Code at the Port of Victoria. Seychelles became signatory to the ISPS Code in 2004.

“Every port stakeholder in every country has security responsibilities in our interconnected global economy,” said Lt. Cmdr. Darain Kawamoto, liaison officer, U.S. Coast Guard Marine Detachment Singapore. “The U.S. Coast Guard appreciates Seychelles’ invitation and their commitment to improving port security.”

According to the office of the U.S. Trade Representative,



U.S. goods imported from Seychelles totaled \$6 million

in 2013. The top import categories were optic and medi-

cal instruments totaling \$3 million, meat and fish totaling

U.S. COAST GUARD
Lt. Cmdr. Darain Kawamoto, liaison officer, U.S. Coast Guard Marine Detachment Singapore, speaks with the master of the *Costa Romanica* on his review of the International Ship and Port Facility Security Code for the Port of Victoria, Seychelles. Nov. 30, 2016. The engagement involved sharing best practices and visiting Seychelles Port Authority to observe the implementation of the International Ship and Port Facility Security Code.

\$793,000, and aluminum totaling \$311,000. Additionally, in 2013, the U.S. exported more than \$12 million in goods to Seychelles.

In 2003, the U.S. Coast Guard developed the International Port Security Program to reinforce the implementation of the ISPS Code. The Program seeks to reduce risk to U.S. maritime interests, in-

cluding U.S. ports and ships, and facilitate secure global maritime trade.

Under the auspices of this program, a U.S. Coast Guard International Port Security team conducts an annual visit to assess the effectiveness of seaport anti-terrorism measures and provides recommendations to government officials to reduce the risk of a maritime security incidents and impacts to the global supply chain. The International Port Security Program is designed to assist seaports in overcoming security challenges in a dynamic and ever changing threat environment.

In the Asia-Pacific region, the U.S. Coast Guard’s Activities Far East unit coordinates with over 40 countries to execute these bilateral engagements. The U.S. Coast Guard is committed to promoting and facilitating safe and secure maritime trade. **(USCG)**

USCG, Mauritius tie up to improve port security

SINGAPORE—A U.S. Coast Guard International Port Security team completed a bilateral engagement with Mauritius government port officials in November 2016.

This engagement involved sharing best practices and visiting Mauritius Port Authority to observe the implementation of the International Ship and Port Facility Security Code at Port Louis. Mauritius became signatory to the ISPS Code in 2004.H

“Every port stakeholder in every country has security responsibilities in our interconnected global economy,” Lt. Cmdr. Darain Kawamoto, liaison officer, U.S. Coast Guard Marine Detachment Singapore. “The U.S. Coast Guard appreciates Mauritius’ invitation and their commitment to improving port security.”

According to the office of the U.S. Trade Representative, U.S. imports from Mauritius totaled \$58 million in 2015. The three largest import categories were mineral fuels totaling \$24 million, machinery totaling \$7 million, and electrical machinery totaling \$5 million. Additionally, in 2015, the U.S. exported more than \$395 million in goods to Mauritius.

In 2003, the U.S. Coast Guard developed the International Port Security Program to reinforce the implementation of the ISPS Code. The IPS program seeks to reduce risk to U.S. maritime interests, including U.S. ports and ships, and to facilitate secure global maritime trade.

Under the auspices of this program, a U.S. Coast Guard international port security team conducts an annual



U.S. COAST GUARD
Lt. Cmdr. Darain Kawamoto, liaison officer, U.S. Coast Guard Marine Detachment Singapore, observes port security measures with the Mauritius port authority, port master and port facility security officer in Port Louis, Mauritius, Nov. 28, 2016. The engagement involved sharing best practices and visiting Mauritius Port Authority to observe the implementation of the International Ship and Port Facility Security Code at Port Louis.



ENHANCED STATION

Mobil Oil Mariana Islands Inc. announced the re-opening of the Kagman Mobil service station on Dec. 19, 2016, after the completion of upgrading works. Kagman Mobil was previously closed for a planned forecourt canopy upgrade, which started on Nov. 13, 2016.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

visit to assess the effectiveness of seaport anti-terrorism measures and provides recommendations to government officials to reduce the risk of a maritime security incidents and impacts to the global supply chain. The ISPS program is designed to assist seaports in overcoming security challenges in a

dynamic and ever changing threat environment.

In the Asia-Pacific region, the U.S. Coast Guard’s Activities Far East unit coordinates with over 40 countries to execute these bilateral engagements. The U.S. Coast Guard is committed to promoting and facilitating safe and secure maritime trade. **(USCG)**



NEW OFFICERS

Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang administers the oaths of office to councilors L.J. Castro and Diego Kaipat during the swearing in ceremony for the 14th Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council on Monday at the Kiosku Round House in Chalan Kanoa.

MARK RABAGO



MARK RABAGO

L.J. Castro, chairman of the 14th Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council, shakes the hand of vice chair Diego Kaipat, second right, as Northern Islands Mayor Jerome Aldan, left, and Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang, right, look on.

The Northern Marianas College recently welcomed a professor from Russia who will be teaching this semester at the institution as part of the Fulbright scholar-in-residence program. The visiting scholar, Dr. Andrei Shatilov, will also be engaging students through a variety of international, cross-cultural activities.

The Fulbright program, sponsored by the U.S. Department of State, helps enable U.S. colleges like NMC to host scholars from other

NMC welcomes Fulbright scholar

countries in order to help them internationalize their campuses, curriculum, and the wider community. This is NMC's second time to host a Fulbright scholar since 2013.

Dr. Andrei Shatilov has received a five-month SIR award from the U.S. Department of State beginning January 2017. The majority of funding for Fulbright scholars comes from the program itself, with the host

institution providing a small stipend to assist partially with transportation and housing.

During his stay at NMC, Shatilov will be teaching three courses: Elementary Russian, Russian culture and literature, and a developmental English course.

"It is a great honor for



Shatilov

Northern Marianas College to have been selected to be a host institution for the Fulbright scholar-in-residence program," said NMC president Dr. Carmen Fernandez. "The campus community is excited to welcome Dr. Shatilov and to gain from his knowledge and experience."

Shatilov is a senior lecturer and associate professor at St. Petersburg State University, and teaches Russian grammar, conversation, stylistics, and text analysis. He has also been an advisor for Russian language teaching at the State Pedagogical Institute in Bratislava, Slovak Republic, as well as a full-time professor for practical Russian at the Chinese Culture

University in Taiwan. He has also held many administrative roles during his time at St. Petersburg University, such as the chief of Preparatory Section of the Russian Language Department, Academic Department director for Foreign Students, and the deputy director of the Center of Russian Language and Culture.

Shatilov said he was very excited to begin teaching at NMC.

"I felt very welcome when I arrived [on] Saipan, as all of the faculty and staff were very friendly and hospitable," said Shatilov. "I can't wait to meet all the students when the semester begins!"

Other than teaching, Shatilov is also fluent in English and Spanish and has developed extensive Russian language programs and writing workbooks for students. He has written over 70 publications regarding the Russian language and his teaching experiences. (NMC)

Change of command at Joint Region Marianas

ASAN, Guam—Rear Adm. Shoshana Chatfield will relieve Rear Adm. Bette Bolivar during a change of command ceremony on Jan. 27.

The ceremony will be held at the Fr. Duenas Phoenix Center in Mangilao, Guam,



Chatfield

at 10am. The guest speaker will be former Secretary of the Navy James H. Webb Jr. The event will be open to the public and also streamed live on the Joint Region Marianas Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/jrmguam>).

Chatfield will serve as commander, Joint Region Marianas; commander, U.S. Naval Forces Marianas; U.S. Pacific Command, senior military official Guam, Commonwealth of the North-



Bolivar

ern Marianas Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of Palau, and commander, Task Force West.

She reports to Guam after serving as United States deputy military representative to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization Military Com-

mittee in Brussels, Belgium.

Bolivar served in her current position since August 2014. Under her leadership, Joint Region Marianas met its mission of enabling the warfighter and supporting military families, while building regional partnerships and spearheading the "One Guam" initiative focusing on creating initiatives that benefitted both military missions and citizens of Guam. (JRM)



MTEC

Marianas Tourism Education Council chair Vicky Benavente speaks about tourism with students of Sinapalo Elementary on Dec. 8, 2016.

MTEC continues school outreach



Coral Garden Motel and Kin & Rit Store Owner Joaquin Atalig of Rota speaks about tourism during the presentation of the Marianas Tourism Education Council and Marianas Visitors Authority at Rota Senior/Jr. High School on Dec. 8, 2016.

The Marianas Tourism Education Council and Marianas Visitors Authority are gearing up for the second semester of educational outreach to CNMI schools in the new year.

Schools interested in having an MTEC presentation or a MY WAVE (Marianas Youth Welcome All Visitors Enthusiastically) Club may contact MVA Community Projects specialist Ryan Calvo at rcalvo@mymarianas.com or MVA Community Projects assistant Jennalyd Babauta at jbabauta@mymarianas.com or 664-3210 for more information.

MTEC wrapped up their 2016 presentation by bringing their tourism message to Sinapalo Elementary School and the Rita V. Hocog Jr./Sr. High School in December. The tourism education team was joined by Rota businessman Joaquin Atalig, owner of Coral Garden Motel and Kin & Rita Store, who was eager to share his tourism experiences with the

students. MTEC also shared about the unique tourism appeal and attractions of Rota, the types of visitors the NMI receives, the benefits of tourism, careers in the industry, and what students can do to support tourism at a young age.

Before presentations resume, MTEC will hold its annual MTEC Tourism Summit on Jan. 26, 2017, at Fiesta Resort & Spa, where MY WAVE (Marianas Youth Welcome All Visitors Enthusiastically) Club members will explore aspects of the tourism industry more in-depth. The summit is expected to gather nearly MY WAVE Club members to learn more about tourism, with special emphasis on discovering more about the special qualities that make their Marianas home attractive to visitors. This year's summit theme is "Discover My Marianas" and will feature TripAdvisor head of Destination Marketing APAC Sarah Mathews and other speakers. (MTEC)



MTEC

Fifth graders of Sinapalo Elementary wave following the presentation of Marianas Tourism Education Council and Marianas Visitors Authority at the school on Dec. 8, 2016. The presentation was made by, seated left to right in middle row, MTEC chair Vicky Benavente, MVA Community Projects assistant Jennalyd Babauta, MVA Rota representative Sandra Atalig, and MTEC board member Catherine Perry Harris.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXVII, Issue No. 7

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

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EDITORIAL

President-elect Trump not smart to diss US intelligence

That candidate Donald Trump was able to attack revered national institutions while maintaining his popular support was one of the great surprises of the New York billionaire's run. That President Donald Trump might continue to attack critical national institutions while maintaining the United States' stability, prosperity, unity, security and position in the world would be a devastating error.

That's what's at stake if Trump continues to undermine both the ability of our intelligence apparatus to do its job, and our confidence in it.

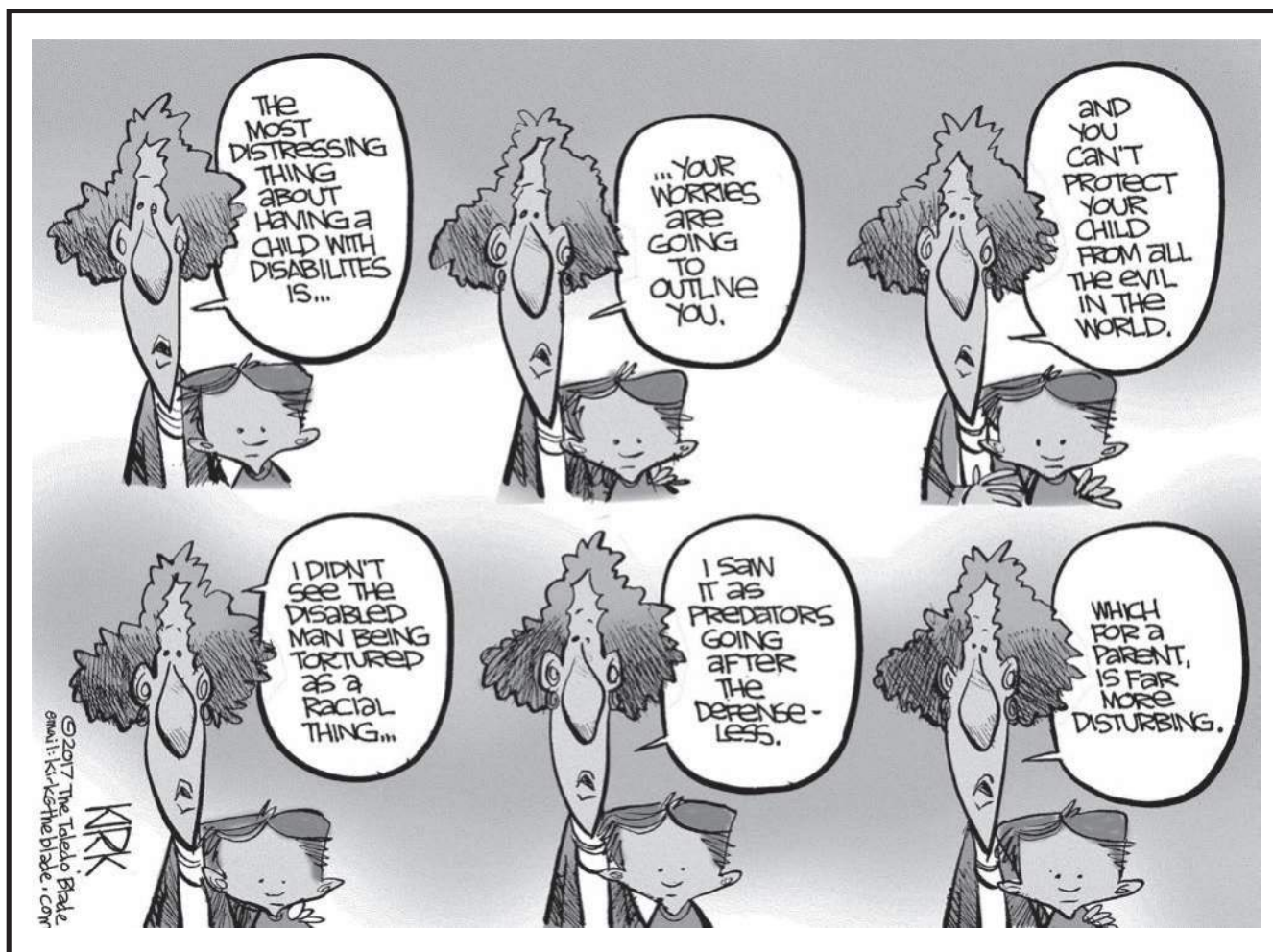
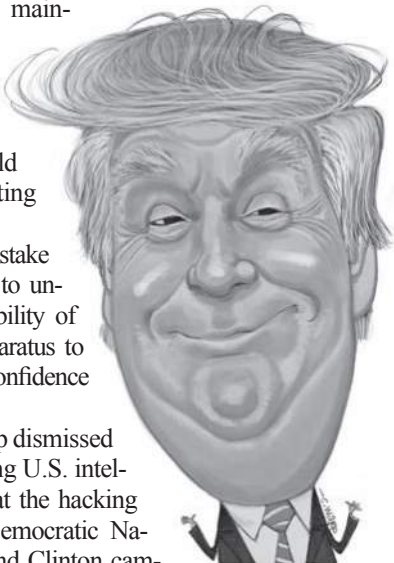
For weeks, Trump dismissed the consensus among U.S. intelligence agencies that the hacking of emails of the Democratic National Committee and Clinton campaign manager John Podesta, and the exposure of those emails, was done by Russians acting at the behest of top Russian government officials with the specific intent to influence the election in Trump's favor.

His attacks infuriated intelligence officials past and present from across the political spectrum, including the director of national intelligence, James R. Clapper Jr., and they led former CIA director James Woolsey to quit Trump's transition team.

Before his top-secret briefing Friday with intelligence leaders, Trump called the focus on the hacks a "political witch hunt." To delegitimize this probe, he pointed to intelligence failures on the 9/11 attacks and the issue of weapons of mass destruction in Iraq. Trump argued that past hacking incidents didn't get as much attention as this one, and he tried to divert attention by focusing on how NBC and other media outlets got hints of what intelligence leaders would tell him before his briefing on Friday.

But none of Trump's diversions or counterarguments made sense. The intelligence community — politically varied, patriotic and honorable — has no motive to point the finger at the Russians on hacking if it isn't true. Tracing a hack that already happened is far easier than it was to prevent the 9/11 attacks or determine whether Iraq was still building and hiding terrible weapons. Previous hacks have been part of the constant espionage chess match, not a brazen attempt to swing voters away from a candidate. And vague information leaked to the media hours before it goes public is no scandal.

See TRUMP on Next Page



Tweets reveal Trump's interests, insecurities

By LISA LERER
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON (AP)—His message came at the start of one of the busiest weeks of Donald Trump's transition to the White House. It's a week when he and his team are preparing eight Cabinet picks for confirmation hearings, finalizing appointments and gearing up for his first news conference as president-elect.

But at 6:29 a.m. on Monday, Trump was focused on what seemed like a less presidential problem: a five-minute Golden Globes speech in which actress Meryl Streep had suggested he was a "bully."

"One of the most overrated actresses in Hollywood," Trump tweeted out to his 19.2 million followers.

For better or worse, the president-elect's social media feed is offering a daily glimpse into the interests, insecurities and insults that weigh on the next leader of the free world.

Many presidents have privately bristled at the attacks, criticism and mockery the office can bring. They've fumed behind the walls of the Oval Office and complained about slights to their aides and wives. But Trump's use of Twitter is giving Americans and the world something they've never seen before.

"This is unprecedented access to the president. The presidency usually has a firewall," said Timothy Naftali, a professor of history and public service at New York University. "By using Twitter, Mr. Trump has decided to remove the filter that has served so many of his predecessors so well."

From his gleaming Manhattan skyscraper, Trump fires off messages starting at dawn. In the past week, he's slammed the "dishonest" media, insulted Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer as his party's "head clown," praised 16-year-old Inauguration singer Jackie Evancho and ripped Arnold Schwarzenegger for low ratings on "The Celebrity Apprentice."

The tweets, which frequently feature commentary about specific media reports, give a sense of what Trump is reading and watching.

They ricochet across the globe and news networks. The Streep tweet alone was reposted more than 27 million times, prompt-

ing dozens of news reports and hours of television commentary. Even his spelling errors have prompted news coverage: Last month, he was mocked for using the word "unpresidented" instead of "unprecedented."

Unfettered, stream-of-consciousness commentary is not new for Trump, who began harnessing the social media network to further his brand long before running for president. But, as president, his missives will now carry global ramifications.

Last week, Xinhua, the Chinese state run news agency, published a commentary begging Trump to stop commenting online, saying that foreign policy "isn't child's play." The piece came after Trump repeatedly jabbed Beijing on Twitter.

"Indulging in 'Twitter diplomacy' is undesirable," said the headline.

Trump is hardly the first president to take umbrage with what he views as unfair attacks. Behind closed doors, Richard Nixon was notoriously vengeful, Lyndon Johnson often thin-skinned and Dwight Eisenhower prone to rage, says Naftali. But past presidents went to great lengths to keep their personal emotions private, carefully channeling communications through staff.

"The White House staff has been designed to soften the hard edges of the boss," says Naftali. "You're representing the United States. Do you want the United States to look angry?"

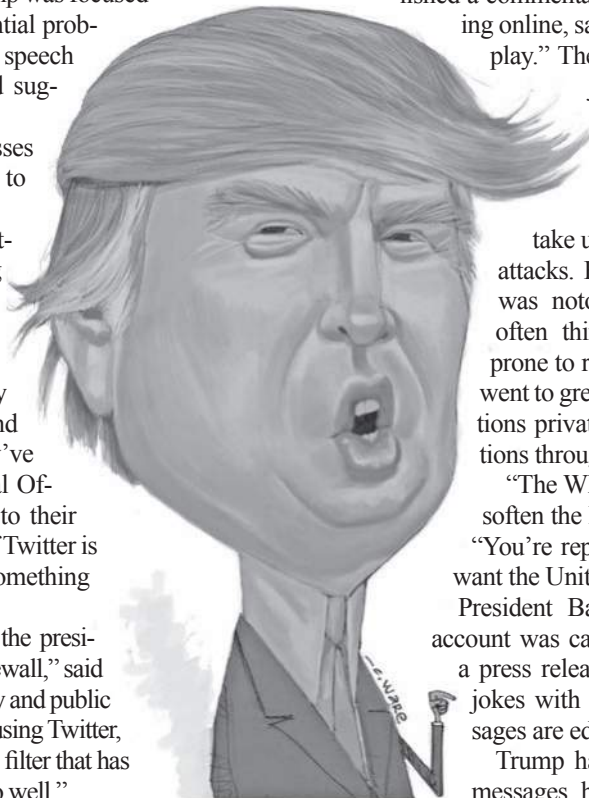
President Barack Obama's presidential Twitter account was carefully launched in May 2015, with a press release, official photo and benign online jokes with former President Bill Clinton. Messages are edited by aides and strategically timed.

Trump has taken the opposite approach. His messages blindsides his staff, who admit they wake up and check Twitter to see what's been occupying their boss overnight.

"I do look there first, because that's what's going to drive the news," incoming White House press secretary Sean Spicer said last week at the University of Chicago's Institute of Politics.

Critics say he often uses the messages to distract attention from more damaging stories about his business interests, ethical questions trailing his incoming administration and his factual inaccuracies. Others argue that they're evidence of "Donald being Donald"—a reflection of the New York real estate mogul's long-

See TWEETS on Next Page



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Tanu` Indihinau (Natibu)

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Guaha man-atoganti chumoneg asuntun direchun man-bota kumu sudadanun Amerikanu kontodu pattisipa-sion disposision tanu` natibu.

Hu komprendi este na asuntu sa` hagas manaitai-yu` lamegai na estudiu pot direchun botadot.

Lau guaha ha` lokue` asuntu siha `nai debi u motmut respetu gi tautau tanu` sino natibu. Disposision Attikulu Dosi gaige este gi dos patman kanai natibu. Siña gai direchu hau manbota lau tuñgu` rayamu gi haf` solu asuntun mami.

Taya relasioña asuntun tanu` natibu yan otu rasan tautau siha fuera de Chamorro. Desde ke manmafañagu hit dos ta soda` huyu-ñg: Dikiki` tanu` yan dañkulun tasi. Achog asuntun independenti sen ti parehu kinemprendin tautau isla yan ginen elmundu.

Para i tautau-ta, i tanu` hinagoñg-ta, linala` ta, yan plaset linala` natibu desde antigu na tiempu. I manginen hiyuñg mapega i mismu konseptu gi hechuran sisteman gobietnamentu. Para hita, linala` tautau-ta. Estague` i difirensia!

Gi karera mona, hu guiguife independenti na Marianas ya u kahulu` este na asuntu `nai esta lamegai gi famaguon-ta man-ma-eduka kolehu. Mas antau yan anchu na inadiñgan siempre makondakta `nai u guaha eksisiun botasion gi este na attikulu. `Nai esta man-to`a tautau-ta libianu ta esgaihon mona kinalam-ten tano` ta para todus.

Puntu: Masedi i Indians (Native Americans) mandueñu gi tanu` niha. Yangin manmasedi taya` rason na ti siña i natibu guine ha eksisia mismu direchu! Dispues, taya` ta gagagau solu respetu gi haf` inyun natibu!

Sensian Saina

Gi halum katma yan mattiru, i mañainata ma-atrebi siha umu-suni sattun na kinimitin inalgau mantension familia. I mantension ha inklusu neñkanu`, magagu, kareta yan fanliheñg familia.

`Nai sige mona, ta fatoigue hegsu` guinifita `nai ta dispacha hit ginen siha. Hita lokue ta establesi mismu familia-ta. Parehu yan finapos mañaina-ta gi difirensiau na tiempu. Siha antes hita pa`gu.

Areglun dos saina muna` fitme kada patgun mañaña antes de u diñgu i pettan sanmena. Bes enkuando, man-absisita espesi-atmienti gi tiempun ha`anen gupot siha. Este na pogsi` natibu

TRUMP

From Page 10

Trump should re-evaluate how our spy and data-collection agencies work and whether information is properly shared and prioritized. He should be learning how crucial that work is to the nation's safety. But his attacks were destructive when constructive action is needed.

Trump seemed to change his tune after his briefing Friday and the subsequent release of a declassified version of the report that said Russian President Vladimir Putin "aspired to help President-elect Trump's election chances when possible by discrediting Secretary Clinton and publicly contrasting her unfavorably to him." In a prepared statement, not a tweet, he professed "tremendous respect for the work and service" of intelligence professionals and emphasized his feeling that the hacks had not affected the election. The idea that the Russians might not have had a role and that his opponents orchestrated the situation wasn't mentioned.

At least it was a better tone, and one Trump needs to stick with.

(c)2017 Newsday

TWEETS

From Page 10

running interest in celebrity culture and his own social stature. In any case, his midnight missives regularly send aides scrambling to defend their boss. On Monday morning, incoming senior adviser Kellyanne Conway was on TV accusing Streep of "inciting people's worst instincts" and wallowing in "self-pity." Trump has given little indication that his tweeting ways will change once he takes office. Time to brace for a reality-television presidency? "He's going to be a somewhat different type of president," said Stephen Hess, a policy analyst at Brookings who has advised presidents from both parties. "We're soon going to learn what the pluses and minuses are of that."

fitme ni gumu`ot todus desde antes.

Fuera de malulog gi gima tasoda` otu siha finana`gue ginen eskuela yan bisinu. Desde katpenteria, chechu` hatdin, peskan tasi yan tanu`, respetu gi man-amko`ta yan otu siha ineyag ni muna` fitme mas kareran kinimplen echu tautau.

I famaguon-ta i gatbu na flores hatdin korason-ta. Siha u gini`ut i achon desde ayu na ha`ane `nai ma-establesi mismu familian niha.

Ti namanman na kada patgun sahñge kustumbreña. Lau todus komprendi haf` mauleg yan ti mauleg. Ti namanman lokue` i sat-tun na animun kada patgun para una` mauleg-gue gi todus pinetsigi.

Guaha na patgun taglayu`, pasensia, malamaña, matatñga, yan otu siha dopbladan kustumbre. Ti hu entalu`e desde ke mañuha gi kanaihu sa` siha para u kinatga kilu`us niha. Gaige gi dos patman kanai niha ha`anen niha.

Lau mientras lalala` si nana, guiya mas tumuñgu` haye gi halum i tropa i ti muna` sisiña. `An gai suetti ha poluye dididi`. Ennau na patgun sessu siempre ha bisita mientras ke gagaige si nana. Añgoghuyun disposision nana.

Namase`: Sessu hu soda` un` patgon lahe gi gima` i hagahu gi uttimun semana. Era, mauleg na amigun un` ñietu ni kumom-bida para iya siha.

Un` namase` na nana pumupulan sin pintu`. Guaha ochu otu mañeluña. Gi halum chubasku komprendiyun haf` ha`aniña este na patgun.

Matutuhun makreansa i patgun haf` modun familia desde tinayuyot, sena yan munagasgas gi gima`. Hana` banidosuyu` sa` listu hasañgan na guahu yan i asaguahu i bihu yan bihaña.

Motmut gineftau mami pot ha nesessita i patgun sattun na ayudu. Sessu hu adiñgane pot para bai na`e mas konfiansa na atbiettu i pettan appottunadat yangin ha konsigi pumetsigi edukasioña finenina. Magofyu` `nai ilegña, "Grandpa bai osgi tinago`mu siha". Pa`gu, prefektu ñietu!

Minalañgu: Hu li`e un` patgun gi hospitat (entalu` 10-14 años) para umarikonose pot chatguiya. Hu huñgog dispues ginen i tata na kanset haga` chenotña i kilisyau.

Ha usune kahulu` man-ñiñge dispues ha birague` tatte gi siyaña. Kanaha` tihu lañgag umatan i patgon sa` hu komprendi ayu na eskpressiun mata `nai siete años sigidu halum yan huyu-ñgu` lokue` gi hospitat `nai malañgu lahihi.

Esta hana` mesgu` lagohu. Buenti o`sun esta ma-hospitat pat gua-ha pinadesisiña ni sumen chatsaga. Lau ha suñgun dibuenamenti.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Cervical cancer awareness month?

Do "awareness" months do any good? If so I'm not aware of it. How about Cervical Cancer Prevention month instead? Prevention is much more effective than awareness. Now *that* could do some good.

Long ago I wrote an article: "Prevent Cancer for 65 Cents." It was about drinking a glass of water with ½ tsp of baking soda in it. Baking soda (sodium bicarbonate) is alkalizing and beneficial to one's health. Most of the foods we eat are acid-forming, and diseases thrive in an acidic environment, including cancer. The baking soda neutralizes the acid.

It's cheap insurance; and if you have cancer, drink this mixture twice a day, morning and night on an empty stomach. You can also eat alkalizing foods, such as celery and lettuce.

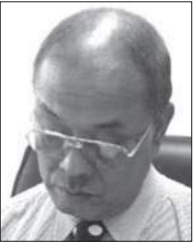
There are thousands of Google pages about the benefits of baking soda, as well as dozens of YouTube videos. many by patients who cured themselves, and others are by physicians (including an Italian doctor, Dr. Simoncini) who treats his patients with baking soda.

Considering that a box of baking soda costs around a dollar, it's the cheapest cancer prevention there is. But there are others. If you can avail yourself of some of these remedies, you will cut your cancer risk significantly. And, if you have cancer, you may possibly prevent it from spreading (metastases).

But know this first...

The FDA and the pharmaceutical companies are engaged in a racket. They do *not* want a cure, despite what they say. They want everyone to have a nice, long, expensive, illness. So if there's a cure, they certainly do not want you to know about it. If people

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune



John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the Saipan Tribune.

Makat na asuntun familia. I patgon pot mattirun kanset haga`, i mañaina i diariu na animu ma-assisti i lahen niha. Huyuñg yan halum gi hospitat kada inaditi i patgon baban siñienteña. Makat na tiru piot gi malañgu ni guaha buenti `nai ga`oña esta dumeskans.

Todu ayu na mattiru hana`e-yu` minetgut yan minesñgun gi ha`anihu. Ayu lokue` na tiempu `nai fehman hufaisen i Saina ayuduña. Hu gu`ot kanaiña fitme sa` guiya i man-nana`e gi kat-kuet kinalamten. Mattu gi sumen popble siñienteghu guihe na tiempu.

Pot Chaleg: Listu i amiguahu Magoo umanunsia na esta ha huchum i uttimu pahinan 2016. Esta monhayen lokue` ha baba i primet pahinan 2017. Hu faisen haf` sineda`ña, ilegña, "Pare hu ha` na asuntu yan 2016!" De dios mihu!

Ha faisenyu` un` amiguahu para bai atan kau magahet na matan amku`gue`. Hu faisen haf` guaha. Ilegña, "Ahe, pot maseha manu na offisina hu agañg ilegña i sekretaria, un` ratu ha` pop". Era, tiyaña ma-agañg "pop!"

■■■

Hagas malagu` i tihuhu gai paki pot sessu humalum tanu`. Lau sen mapot ha soda` propiu finu` Eñglis para u faisen amuña ni paki. Uttimoña ha batbaruye, "Hey friend, you like chenyi(exchange) one pukpak (gun) fonne one be` (cow)?" Diberas na grasia!

■■■

Matranslada un` kattan sindalu para si nanaña. Ilegña, "Dear Mom." Matranslada, "Binadu Nañg". Sige mona, "Before I go down the line, I want to say hi". Translada: Antes de bai tunog papa` gi tali, malaguyu` na un` tuñgu` na tatkilu". Dios mihu todus mana` fan abarambau intension `nai matranslada kattan i prohimu. Anog haye ti tumuñgu` liñguahña.

were cured, a multi-billion dollar industry would grind to a halt.

Turmeric

There are thousands of scientific studies about the curative properties of turmeric, especially when combined with black pepper. It kills cancer and if you are cancer free, eating turmeric (mixed with rice or in soup) is a cheap and effective preventative. But you must add the black pepper, which acts as an "activator."

Turmeric grows wild in the Marianas, but I don't know how to prepare it. Instead, you can buy a container of the spice powder and add it to food—a couple of tablespoons in some rice or soup, along with 10 percent black pepper.

Amygdalin

The research conducted at Walker Labs—part of Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York—confirmed that Amygdalin (also called vitamin B-17 and Laetrile) prevents metastases 80 percent of the time. Many claim to have cured themselves by eating fresh (not dried or roasted) apricot seeds, which contain amygdalin.

The seeds (also called kernels) look like small almonds, but have a bitter taste. Still, they are worth eating if you want to stay cancer-free. For prevention, eat 8 per day. If you have cancer, eat up to 60 per day, in divided doses.

Hot peppers!

Capsaicin is the chemical compound that makes peppers hot. According to recent research, eating capsaicin peppers will cause cancer cells to self-destruct. Is this true? I haven't read the clinicals, but the benefits of hot peppers have been well-established. If you can stand the heat, they are really good for you.






Awareness is useful, but prevention is far, far better. If you can prevent cervical, or any other kind of cancer, by taking some or all of the above, you are doing something very good for your health.

Russ Mason

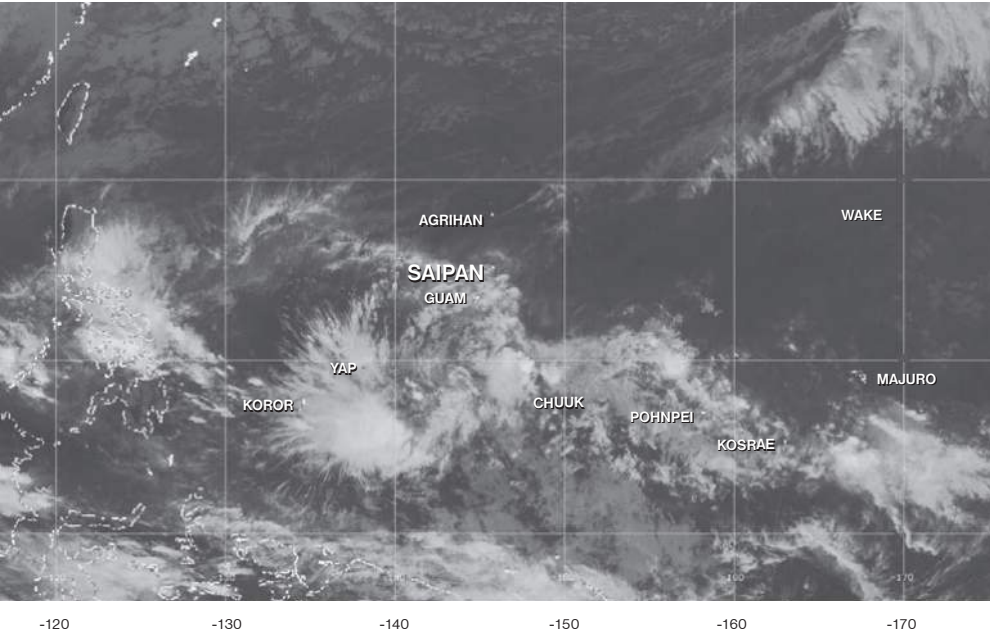
As Teo, Saipan

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
				
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of light showers.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of light showers.
▲ 87° ▼ 79°	▲ 87° ▼ 79°	▲ 88° ▼ 79°	▲ 88° ▼ 79°	▲ 89° ▼ 79°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 6:25 AM, TUESDAY, JANUARY 10, 2017

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Scattered showers associated with a tropical disturbance to the southwest of Chuuk continue to affect the Marianas this morning. These showers are slowly drifting to the west as the circulation moves toward Palau. Expect scattered showers to continue through this afternoon then decrease to isolated for tonight. A weak ridge building in behind the disturbance will bring drier conditions back to the islands by the weekend. Latest buoy readings show seas continuing to slowly subside across the Marianas. Seas are currently between 5 and 7 feet and are expected to continue to subside over the next few days, falling to between 4 and 5 feet by the weekend.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorm	85° / 77°
Palau	Partly Cloudy	85° / 78°
Yap	Thunderstorm	84° / 79°
Chuuk	Thunderstorm	85° / 80°
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	85° / 79°
Kosrae	Partly Cloudy	85° / 79°
Majuro	Thunderstorm	85° / 79°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Mostly Sunny	73° / 63°
Beijing	Sunny	43° / 21°
Hong Kong	Cloudy	70° / 61°
Honolulu	Sunny	84° / 66°
London	Partly Cloudy	52° / 37°
Los Angeles	Rain	63° / 52°
Manila	Partly Cloudy	88° / 75°
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	81° / 64°
Miami	Mostly Cloudy	75° / 69°
New York	Partly Cloudy	49° / 44°
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	48° / 39°
Paris	Showers	52° / 43°
Pusan	Partly Cloudy	48° / 28°
Rome	Sunny	45° / 28°
Salem	Mostly Sunny	68° / 48°
San Francisco	Windy	38° / 19°
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	37° / 19°
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	52° / 36°
Washington, DC	Showers	51° / 44°



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
12:31 AM	HIGH TIDE		-0.52
7:30 AM	LOW TIDE		1.93
12:47 PM	HIGH TIDE		1.13
5:55 PM	LOW TIDE		2.1

	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:46 AM	6:04 PM
Thursday	6:46 AM	6:04 PM
Friday	6:46 AM	6:05 PM
Saturday	6:47 AM	6:06 PM
Sunday	6:47 AM	6:06 PM

	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	5:06 AM	4:53 PM
Thursday	-	6:07 AM	5:54 PM
Friday	-	7:04 AM	6:55 PM
Saturday	-	7:58 AM	7:53 PM
Sunday	-	8:48 AM	8:49 PM

NEWS DESK

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SUBSCRIPTION

Published Monday to Friday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of \$180. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 11, 2017

DEPARTURES			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)			
UA6394	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA6392	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA6391	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA6390	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA6398	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA6396	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)			
UA6391	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)			
UA6391	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)			
DL297	4:15pm	7:05pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)			
OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1
TW308	2:35am	6:25am	1, 2, 7
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
TW308	3:05am	6:55am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6
OZ628	3:50am	7:40am	Daily
7C3403	4:35am	8:30am	Daily
LJ652	3:10pm	7:05pm	Daily
7C3401	4:30pm	8:25pm	Daily
ZE582	4:30pm	9:05pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)			
7C3451	2:55am	6:10am	1, 7
OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7
7C3451	3:15am	6:30am	4, 5

SAIPAN-JEJU (CJU)			
7C3433	3:55am	7:30am	3, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)			
3U8648	5:40am	8:00am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)			
MU764	1:30am	6:55am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)			
3U8646	4:30am	7:50am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)			
OZ626/701	2:10am	10:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	10:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA6394/191	4:15am	9:00am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:30am	Daily via GUM
PR1572	5:45am	7:45am	4, 7
UA6391/183	1:30pm	9:30pm	5 via Rota-GUM
UA6391/183	1:30pm	9:50pm	1, 4, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA6391/193	1:30pm	11:10pm	5 via Rota-GUM-ROR
UA6390/183	2:20pm	9:30pm	2 via GUM
UA6390/183	2:20pm	9:50pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA6390/193	2:20pm	11:10pm	2 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)			
HX077	2:15am	5:15am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ628/723	3:50am	12:50pm	Daily via ICN
PR1572/318	5:45am	12:20pm	4, 7 via MNL
UA6391/159	1:30pm	10:35pm	1, 5 via Rota-GUM
UA6390/159	2:20pm	10:35pm	3, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS			
GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA6393	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA6395	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA6391	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA6390	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA6397	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA6399	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)			
UA6390	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN			
UA6390	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL298	10:25am	2:55pm	Daily

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
LJ651	8:25am	1:45pm	Daily
ZE581	9:50am	3:20pm	Daily
7C3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
TW307	8:15pm	1:35am+1	1, 6, 7
OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
TW307	8:45pm	2:05am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
OZ627	9:30pm	2:50am+1	Daily
7C3404	10:10pm	3:30am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
7C3452	8:30pm	1:20am+1	6, 7
OZ607	9:00pm	1:50am+1	3, 6
7C3452	9:35pm	2:15am+1	3, 4

JEJU (CJU)-SAIPAN			
7C3434	10:05pm	2:40am+1	2, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8647	10:20pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN			
MU763	4:40pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8645	7:50pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
UA190/6397	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR1571	10:25pm	4:45am+1	3, 6
UA192/6395	10:20pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
PR110/UA6395	10:05pm	8:05am+1	Daily via GUM
UA184/6395	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/6395	11:55pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ724/627	2:20pm	2:50am+1	Daily via ICN
HX076	5:50pm	12:45am+1	3, 7
PR307/1571	6:20pm	4:45am+1	3, 6
UA116/6395	9:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, HK HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, LJ Jin Air, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, ZE Eastar Jet; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

TINIAN TO SAIPAN		
DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
6:30AM	6:45AM	Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
12:30NN	12:45NN	Daily
1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily

6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN		
DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
12:00NN	12:15NN	Daily
1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily

6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily
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SAIPAN TO ROTA		
DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:45AM	8:15AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:00PM	4:30PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

ROTA TO SAIPAN		
DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:45PM	5:15PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

Business

Parents, save up: Cost of raising a child is more than \$233K

WASHINGTON (AP)—Expecting a baby? Congratulations! Better put plenty of money in your savings account.

The Department of Agriculture says the estimated cost of raising a child from birth through age 17 is \$233,610, or as much as almost \$14,000 annually. That's the average for a middle-income couple with two children. It's a bit more expensive in urban parts of the country, and less so in rural areas.

The estimate released Monday is based on 2015 numbers, so a baby born this year is likely to cost even more. It's a 3 percent increase from the prior year, a hike higher than inflation.

Since 1960, USDA has compiled the annual report to inform—and probably terrify—budget-preparing parents. State governments and courts also use the information to write child support and foster care guidelines. The main costs include housing, food, transportation, health care, education, clothing and other miscellaneous expenses.

Things to know about how much it costs to raise a child:

HOUSING IS EXPENSIVE

Feds: More than 800 career programs are failing their grads

Hundreds of programs at for-profit colleges are at risk of losing federal funding unless their graduates start earning better wages, federal officials say.

On Monday, the Education Department issued its first round of data measuring whether graduates of 8,700 career programs earn enough money to repay their student loans. It stems from the Obama administration's new "gainful employment" rule, which aims to weed out programs that leave students with heavy debt and light income.

Under the rules, programs are considered failing if their graduates on average pay at least 12 percent of their yearly earnings on student loans, or 30 percent of their discretionary income. Programs can lose access to federal funding if they fail twice within three years, or if they fall into a lower "warning zone" for four consecutive years.

In the first round of ratings, based on students who graduated between 2010 and 2012, more than 800 programs failed and 1,200 others were in the warning zone.

Up to a third of the total cost is housing, accounting for 26 to 33 percent of the total expense of raising a child. USDA comes up with those numbers by calculating the average cost of an additional bedroom—an approach the department says is probably conservative, because it doesn't account for those families who pay more to live in communities that have better schools or other amenities for children.

URBAN VS. RURAL DIFFERENCES

The cost of raising a child varies in different regions of the country. Overall, middle-income, married-couple families in the urban Northeast spent the most (\$253,770), followed by those in the urban West (\$235,140) and urban South (\$221,730). Those in the urban Midwest spent less (\$217,020), along with those in rural areas (\$193,020).

USDA estimates the annual housing cost per child in urban areas is \$3,900, while it's \$2,400 in rural areas.

There were also differences depending on income. Lower-income families are expected to spend around \$174,690 per child from birth through 17;

higher-income families will spend a whopping \$372,210.

The average middle-income family earns between \$59,200 and \$107,400 before taxes.

CHILD CARE COSTS HAVE RISEN

After housing, child care, education and food are the highest costs for families. For a middle-income couple with two children, food costs make up about 18 percent of the cost of raising a child. Child care and education costs make up 16 percent.

Education costs have sharply

risen since 1960, when USDA estimated that those expenses were around 2 percent of child-rearing expenses. The report says this growth is likely due to the increased number of women in the workforce, prompting the need for more child care.

The numbers don't even include the annual cost of college, which the government estimates is \$45,370 for a private college and \$20,090 for a public college.

OLDER KIDS ARE MORE EXPENSIVE

New parents may flinch at the

costs of diapers and baby gear, but it's going to get worse. While a child costs around \$12,680 when he or she is between 0 and 2, a teenager between 15 and 17 costs around \$13,900 annually.

USDA says food, transportation, clothing and health care expenses all grow as a child ages. Transportation costs are highest for the oldest children, perhaps because they start driving, and child care and education costs are highest for six and under.

MORE KIDS, LOWER

COSTS

There is some good news for big families. Families with three or more children spend an average of 24 percent less per child. USDA says that's because children often share bedrooms in bigger families, clothing and toys are handed down and food can be purchased in larger and more economical packages. Also, private schools and child care providers may offer sibling discounts.

In contrast, one-child households spend an average of 27 percent more on the single child.

Apple proved a phone can change the world in just 10 years



In this Jan. 9, 2007, file photo, Apple CEO Steve Jobs holds up an iPhone at the MacWorld Conference in San Francisco. AP

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Few people realized it at the time, but the world shifted fundamentally a decade ago when Steve Jobs pulled the first iPhone from Apple's bag of technological tricks.

"Every once in a while, a revolutionary product comes along that changes everything," Jobs declared as he paced across a San Francisco stage.

It obviously wasn't an empty boast. We all know now that Jobs' "magical product" has reshaped culture, shaken up industries, put computers in billions of pockets and made it possible to do just about anything with a few taps on a screen. Besides its then 3.5-inch touch screen, the first iPhone featured a browser for on-the-go web surfing and built-in apps to check email and get directions.

GOING MOBILE

Apple has sold more than 1 billion iPhones since its debut, spawning millions of mobile applications and prodding other technology companies to make similar smartphones that

have become like phantom limbs for many of us.

We use iPhones and their copycats to instantly share video and pictures with friends and family from almost anywhere. We use them to figure out where we are going. We use them to find the best deals while shopping in stores and to pay for stuff at the checkout stand. We use the phones to a hail ride, to tune instruments, to monitor our health and help find our next jobs.

Phones have gotten so smart that they even talk back to us via helpful digital concierges such as the iPhone's Siri and the recently introduced Assistant on Google's Pixel phone.

"iPhone is an essential part of our customers' lives, and today more than ever it is redefining the way we communicate, entertain, work and live," Apple's current CEO, Tim Cook, boasted in a retrospective that the Cupertino, California, company posted on its website.

ROADKILL IN ITS WAKE

The iPhone's revolutionary touch screen doomed the

BlackBerry, another once-popular internet-connected phone. Mobile phones and their tablet cousins triggered a downturn in personal computer sales that is still unfolding.

An estimated 219 million desktop and laptop computers shipped worldwide last year, down from 264 million in 2007, according to the research firm Gartner Inc. Meanwhile, nearly 1.9 billion mobile phones shipped last year, up from 1.15 billion in 2007.

All told, Gartner estimates about 5 billion mobile phones are currently in use around the world compared to 1.3 billion PCs.

The eroding popularity of PCs spurred shake-ups at powerful tech companies such as Microsoft, Intel, Hewlett-Packard and Dell, none of which adapted nimbly to the mobile world unleashed by the iPhone.

Then-Microsoft's CEO Steve Ballmer scoffed at Apple's glass-and-metal gadget, telling USA Today in April 2007 that "there's no chance that the iPhone is going to get

any significant market share. No chance."

Microsoft wound up squandering the \$7.6 billion that it spent to buy phone maker Nokia in a futile attempt to catch up to the iPhone. Ballmer stepped down as CEO three years ago and was replaced by Satya Nadella, who introduced versions of Microsoft's popular Office programs that worked on Apple's iPad—a tablet based on the iPhone.

A HUGE HIT ... AND THEN A STALL

The iPhone's success helped make Jobs a revered figure for many, and one whose October 2011 death was mourned around the world.

The device has established Apple as the world's most profitable company with earnings of \$45.7 billion on sales of \$216 billion during its latest fiscal year. (Prior to the iPhone's release, Apple posted an annual profit of \$2 billion on sales of \$19.3 billion.) Its stock-market value is hovering around \$635 billion, thanks to a split-adjusted stock price that's risen by nearly a factor of 10 since the iPhone's debut.

Lately, though, the iPhone appears to be losing some steam. People are keeping older models for longer before upgrading or switching over to competing phones that run on Google's Android software.

Apple suffered its first-ever decline in iPhone sales in its last fiscal year, causing the company to miss its revenue projections and hitting Cook with a 15 percent pay cut.

Most smartphones now run on Android, partly because Google gives away the software. That has helped iPhone rivals woo price-conscious consumers, especially outside the U.S., with phones that are much cheaper than the iPhone, whose latest models now cost more than \$649 to \$849.

Nation

Shooting suspect's mental issues may explain little

NEW YORK (AP)—Esteban Santiago, the 26-year-old man held in the fatal shootings last week at Fort Lauderdale's airport, reportedly has a history of mental difficulties and it's tempting

to assume they explain the crime. Experts say: Don't.

"There is no one explanation that will fit this case or any case," says criminologist James Alan Fox of Northeastern University, an expert

on violence.

■■■■■
FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. (AP)—The Iraq war veteran held in the fatal shooting of five people inside Fort Lauderdale's airport was appointed a federal public defender on Monday after telling a judge that he has no job and only \$5 or \$10 in the bank.

Esteban Santiago, 26, spoke clearly during a brief hearing before U.S. Magistrate Judge Alicia Valle, who ordered him held until his next hearings.

Shackled in a red jumpsuit in the heavily guarded federal courtroom, Santiago answered mostly yes or no to questions, and told the judge he understands the charges, which include committing violence against people at an international airport resulting in death, and two fire-

arms offenses.

She told him the death penalty could apply.

■■■■■
While mental health troubles could turn out to play a role in the case, it's unusual for symptoms to drive violence, says Edward Mulvey, a psychologist at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine who studies violence and mental illness.

There has been no public explanation of a motive for the crime, and terrorism has not been ruled out. It could be that mental illness played no role—it is unclear if Santiago had been formally diagnosed with any mental condition or was undergoing treatment.

A few reported details suggest he was troubled. The mother of the Iraq war veteran said he had been deeply shaken by seeing a bomb

explode next to two friends while serving in Iraq in 2010, and relatives said he seemed different when he returned from service.

Santiago's brother Bryan said Esteban told him last August that he was hearing voices and felt he was being chased. In November, he walked into an FBI field office in Alaska and said the federal government was controlling his mind and forcing him to watch Islamic State videos, authorities said.

At that point, officials seized his handgun and had him formally evaluated. After four days he was released and his gun was returned.

But none of these details, by themselves or even together, are enough to draw conclusions, experts say.

Plenty of people have had such experiences in their past and don't commit mass mur-

der, Fox said. The fact that Santiago was released after the evaluation indicates authorities believed he was not dangerous to himself or others, Fox said.

"There's a difference between being psychotic and being dangerous and psychotic," Fox said.

While certain factors often show up in the history of mass murderers, like a history of failure, a tendency to blame others and social isolation, they also appear in the histories of people who don't harm anybody, Fox said. That's why mass killers can't be reliably identified in advance of the crime, he said.

Dr. Paul Appelbaum, a professor of psychiatry at Columbia University in New York, also warned against jumping to the conclusion that a psychiatric disorder is the reason for the shootings.

Trump son-in-law Kushner to take senior White House role

NEW YORK (AP)—President-elect Donald Trump appointed his influential son-in-law Jared Kushner as a White House senior adviser Monday, putting the young real estate executive in position to exert broad sway over both domestic and foreign policy, particularly Middle East issues and trade negotiations.

Trump has come to rely heavily on Kushner, who is married to the president-elect's daughter Ivanka. Since the election, the political novice has been one of the transition team's main liaisons to foreign governments, communicating with Israeli officials and meeting Sunday with Britain's foreign minister. He's also huddled with congressional leaders and helped interview Cabinet candidates.

Ivanka Trump, who also played a significant role advising her father during the presidential campaign, will not be taking a formal White House position. Transition officials said the mother of three young children wanted to focus on

moving her family from New York to Washington.

Kushner's own eligibility for the White House could be challenged, given a 1967 law meant to bar government officials from hiring relatives. Kushner lawyer Jamie Gorelick argued Monday that the law does not apply to the West Wing. She cited a later congressional measure to allow the president "unfettered" and "sweeping" authority in hiring staff.

In a statement, Trump said Kushner will be an "invaluable member of my team as I set and execute an ambitious agenda."

Kushner will resign as CEO of his family's real estate company and as publisher of the New York Observer. He will also divest "substantial assets," Gorelick said. The lawyer said Kushner would not be taking a salary. Ivanka Trump will also be leaving her executive roles at the Trump Organization—her father's real estate company—and her own fashion brands.

GOP hesitancy grows on health law repeal without substitute

WASHINGTON (AP)—Growing numbers of Republicans showed discomfort Monday over obliterating President Barack Obama's health care overhaul without having a replacement to show voters. Hoping to capitalize on the jitters, Democrats staged an evening Senate talk-a-thon to condemn the GOP push.

With Donald Trump just 12 days from entering the White House, Republicans have positioned a repeal and replacement of Obama's 2010 health care statute atop their congressional agenda. But GOP lawmakers have never been able to rally behind an alternative, and Republican senators are increasingly voicing reluctance to vote to yank health coverage from millions of people without a substitute.

That hesitancy was fed as Sen. Rand Paul, R-Ky., among those who want to delay repeal until a substitute is ready, said Trump telephoned him Friday night and expressed support

for doing both together.

The president-elect expressed a similar sentiment shortly after his election, but his call to Paul came as GOP congressional leaders have pushed toward an early repeal vote, to be followed by work on alternative health care legislation that could take months or years to craft.

"There are gathering voices of people saying, 'Hmm, maybe we should have a replacement the same day as a repeal,'" Paul told reporters Monday.

Highlighting GOP indecision, Steve Bannon, who will be White House senior adviser, said, "We're still thinking that through" when asked by reporters after a meeting in the Capitol if repeal and replace should happen together.

The budding Republican divisions come as the GOP-led Senate pushed toward a final vote this week on a budget that would shield a future bill repealing Obama's law from a Democratic filibuster.

Fans mourn death of California's famous 'drive-thru' sequoia



This May 2015 photo provided by Sumner Crawford shows the Pioneer Cabin tunnel tree, a giant sequoia that had a tunnel carved into it in the 1880s, during a visit to Calaveras Big Trees State Park near Arnold, Calif. The tree was toppled over by a massive storm Sunday, Jan. 8, 2017. Crawford said that he was stunned by the sequoia's size—when his family of four tried to join hands around the tree they discovered they couldn't even come close.

SUMNER CRAWFORD/AP

ARNOLD, Calif. (AP)—Joyce Brown was 12 when her parents first took her to visit the "drive-thru tree," a giant sequoia in California famous for a car-sized hole carved into the base of its trunk.

Brown thought she had entered a land of giants as she walked underneath and around the ancient 100-foot-tall tree, which was toppled by a massive storm on Sunday.

"It's kind of like someone in the family has died," said Brown, a 65-year-old retired middle school teacher in the San Francisco Bay Area who spends about a third of the year at her family's cabin in Arnold, about 4 miles from where the now-fallen tree lies dead in Calaveras Big Trees State Park.

Four generations of Brown's family have spent countless hours at the tree and often took out-of-town visitors there, some from as far away as Turkey.

In May 2015, she and her husband showed off the tree to John and Lesley Ripper, a Michigan couple the Browns befriended on an African safari.

"I was blown away," said John Ripper, a 55-year-old printer in Northville, Michigan. "I've traveled to 70 countries. But that particular tree and being able to walk underneath it and touch it was quite a memorable moment and something I won't soon forget."

Ripper said he can't believe that a storm felled such a massive, sturdy-looking tree.

Asia

US, North Korea trade warnings over potential ICBM test

PYONGYANG, North Korea (AP)—With Donald Trump getting ready to take office as president, North Korea is talking about launching a newly perfected intercontinental ballistic missile. Officials in Washington are saying that if Pyongyang launches anything that threatens the territory of the U.S. or its allies, it will be shot down.

North Korea has not explicitly said it will conduct an ICBM test in the immediate future, and it is safe to as-

sume U.S. policy has always been to shoot down any missiles that threaten its territory. But the recent barb trading could suggest Pyongyang and Washington are feeling each other out ahead of President-elect Trump's inauguration on Jan. 20.

A successful ICBM launch would be a major step forward for North Korea and a serious concern to Washington and its allies. Kim Jong Un announced in his annual New Year's address

that the country had reached the "final stages" of ICBM development. Trump himself responded with a tweet two days later, saying the possibility of the North developing a nuclear weapon capable of reaching the U.S. "won't happen!"

Upping the ante, the state's KCNA news agency quoted a North Korean Foreign Ministry spokesman as saying Sunday that Pyongyang reserves the right to conduct a test whenever it sees fit.

"The ICBM will be launched anytime and anywhere determined by the supreme headquarters of the DPRK," the unnamed spokesman was quoted as saying. DPRK stands for the North's official name, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Also Sunday, on "Meet the Press," U.S. Defense Secretary Ash Carter called the North's missile and nuclear weapons development a "serious threat." He said the U.S. military would shoot down

any missiles launched by the North that appeared to be headed toward American territory or the territory of any U.S. allies.

Beyond the rhetoric, however, the KCNA report suggested Pyongyang is hoping Trump will take a new approach toward relations.

Throughout his tenure, Obama followed a policy of "strategic patience," which essentially focused on punitive sanctions while ruling out any significant talks or

contacts until North Korea made the first move toward denuclearization. The KCNA report slammed U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Anthony Blinken for saying last week that sanctions must be maintained to keep the pressure on Pyongyang.

"Anyone who wants to deal with the DPRK would be well advised to secure a new way of thinking after having a clear understanding of it," KCNA quoted the foreign ministry official as saying.

S. Korean dies after setting himself ablaze over Japan deal



SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—A South Korean Buddhist monk has died days after he set himself on fire to protest the country's deal with Japan on former Korean sex slaves, a Seoul hospital said Tuesday.

The monk, 64, set himself ablaze Saturday during rallies against impeached President Park Geun-hye. In his notebook found at the scene, he criticized Park's 2015 agreement to settle an impasse over Korean women forced to be sex slaves for Japanese troops during World War II in return for an apology from Japan's prime minister and a pledge of millions of dollars.

The monk was pronounced dead Monday night of multiple organ failures caused by his burns, according to the Seoul National University Hospital.

Disputes over sex slaves are

AP
In this Jan. 7, 2017, file photo, an injured Buddhist monk who set himself on fire is put into an ambulance in Seoul, South Korea.

a legacy of Japan's 1910-45 colonial occupation of the Korean Peninsula. Many in both North and South Korea, divided at the end of the Japanese rule, still harbor bitter resentment against the Japanese period.

Park's Japan deal prompted criticism because it was announced without approval from surviving former sex slaves. Under the agreement that both countries described as "final and irreversible" at the time of its signing, Japan promised to fund a Seoul-based foundation aimed at supporting the victims.

South Korea, in return, said it would refrain from criticizing Japan over the issue and try to resolve a Japanese grievance over a bronze statue—representing the wartime sex slaves—that had been placed in front of its embassy in Seoul.

The future of the deal was thrown into doubt earlier this month after Japan said it would recall its ambassador to South Korea and suspend economic talks in response to the placing of another such statue in South Korea's second-largest city of Busan. Seoul's Foreign Ministry said the decision was "very regrettable."

ASIAN BRIEFS

8 fishermen killed in suspected pirate attack in Philippines

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Officials say eight Filipino fishermen are dead and five others are missing after at least five suspected pirates boarded a fishing boat in southern Philippine waters and strafed the crew. Coast Guard Lt. Commander Alvin Dagalea said Tuesday that two fishermen survived Monday night's attack off the coast near Zamboanga city in Mindanao province by jumping into the water as the gunmen started shooting. The two swam toward a nearby island and were rescued by a passing motorboat. Dagalea, commander of Zamboanga's coast guard station, says vessels are searching for the missing fishermen and will tow their boat to its homeport. He says the identity of the attackers is unknown. Abu Sayyaf militants are suspected to be behind a string of ship attacks in southern Philippine waters.

China's Xinjiang tightening border amid terrorist threats

BEIJING (AP)—China says it is tightening border controls in its northwestern Xinjiang region amid rising terrorism threats. State media reported Tuesday that Xinjiang's governor Shohrat Zakir made the pledge in a speech at the region's main annual political meeting on Monday. Zakir said increased measures taken in the

last year would be further strengthened. Xinjiang has long been home to a simmering insurgency against Beijing's rule being waged by extremists among the native Turkic-speaking Uighur ethnic group, who are mainly Muslim and culturally distinct from most Chinese. Xinjiang shares a border with Afghanistan, Pakistan and four nations in the often volatile Central Asian region. Uighur extremists have also been reported to have joined the fighting in Syria and were blamed for a deadly attack on a Buddhist temple in Thailand.

Pakistan says it test-fired first submarine-launched missile

ISLAMABAD (AP)—Pakistan's military says it has successfully test-fired a submarine-launched cruise missile for the first time, giving it a "credible second strike capability." A statement Monday said the missile was fired from the Indian Ocean and hit its target. It said the Babur Cruise-3 missile has a range of 450 kilometers (280 miles) and can fly low to evade radar and air defenses. It added that the missile "is capable of delivering various types of payloads and will provide Pakistan with a Credible Second Strike Capability, augmenting deterrence." It appeared to be referring to a strategy in which the ability to strike back after a nuclear attack

deters adversaries from launching one. Pakistan became a nuclear power in 1998, developing the capability to match that of neighbor and archrival India.

McDonald's sells China business in deal worth up to \$2.1B

HONG KONG (AP)—Fast-food giant McDonald's is selling a controlling stake in its China business to a group of investors led by state-owned Chinese conglomerate Citic in a deal worth up to \$2.1 billion, the companies said Monday. The transaction is part of a global business overhaul being carried out by the American company to keep up with changing tastes that have resulted in declining sales. Under the terms of the deal, Citic Ltd. and its investment management unit Citic Capital will acquire 52 percent of the business while another partner, Washington-based private equity firm The Carlyle Group, will own 28 percent. McDonald's will retain a 20 percent stake. About two-thirds of the China operation's 2,640 outlets, including 240 in Hong Kong, that are now owned by McDonald's will be refranchised. The China business, which employs more than 120,000 people, is valued at up to \$2.1 billion, according to the agreement.

World

Europe freeze brings deaths, power outages and closures

BELGRADE, Serbia (AP)—Heavy snow and frigid temperatures have gripped large parts of Europe, leading to dozens of deaths, freezing rivers, the grounding of planes and traffic accidents:

ALBANIA

Frigid weather has caused at least four deaths in the last three days in Albania. Snow stopped falling on Monday, but freezing temperatures continue to engulf the whole country.

A 52-year old Albanian man on Monday died in the town of Golem, 80 kilometers (50 miles) west of Tirana. On Sunday, a 53-year old street beggar was found dead in the city of Sarande south of the capital Tirana.

A day earlier, another 38-year old homeless person was found dead in the port city of Durres west of the capital. A 62 year old man died after sliding from a roof where he was trying to remove ice.

Scores of villages mainly in the north and northeast have been isolated and power and water cuts have been introduced, including the capital.

The health and education ministry decided to keep classes suspended for students.

BULGARIA

The situation in northeastern Bulgaria remains critical with heavy snow drifts on the roads, freezing temperatures and power outages that have affected some 2,000 households.

Emergency teams trying to clear the roads to remote villages were hindered by strong winds.

Authorities issued a Yellow Code alert for low temperatures across Bulgaria on Monday.

The cold spell was expected to continue until the end of the week.

Schools across the country remained closed on Monday.

CROATIA

Freezing temperatures and strong winds have created havoc along Croatia's Adriatic coast, which isn't used to such cold winters.

Even the sea froze in shallow bays, trapping fishermen's boats to the amazement of locals who haven't seen anything like this in decades. The temperatures in Croatia's tourist centers of Dubrovnik and Split dropped to -7 C (19 F) and strong winds blew off ancient pine and olive trees on the coast.

Ferries and planes were



AP
A man runs up snow covered stairs at a park in Berlin, Monday, Jan. 9, 2017.

grounded, and traffic over bridges banned. Water pipes, which are dug just below the surface as is the case in warm climates, have frozen, leaving thousands without running water as authorities tried to figure out ways to cope.

THE CZECH REPUBLIC

According to Czech public radio on Monday, six people are believed to have died of exposure during the latest cold snap, including in the capital, Prague. Meteorologists forecast freezing temperatures to continue in the coming days.

GREECE

Swathes of Greece have been covered by snow, including several islands, some of which have seen more than a meter (more than three feet) of snow.

Temperatures in some parts of northern Greece have plunged to as low as -18 C (0 F). A state of emergency was declared in the municipality of Kymi on the island of Evia, Greece's second largest island after Crete, where the snow in some areas reached two meters (6.5 feet), leading to cuts to electricity and water supplies.

The small eastern Aegean island of Oinousses reported severe problems from the heavy snowfall, with the local mayor telling Greek media the island had been without land-line telephone connections

for four days. On the island of Lesbos, drivers needed snow chains to drive just outside the main port town of Mytilene, while heavy snowfall also hit Chios and parts of the southern island of Crete, from where some flights to Athens were cancelled.

Chios and Lesbos are home to thousands of refugees, many living in precarious conditions in severely overcrowded camps. Many are still living in tents despite the severe weather. Rights groups have slammed the conditions and called on the Greek government to act quickly to reduce overcrowding.

ITALY

Schools were closed in a handful of southern Italy cities not accustomed to such heavy snowfall. Individual schools also closed in Rome and Bologna because heaters weren't working, news reports said.

The sub-freezing temperatures have been blamed for the deaths of at least eight people and have disrupted road, rail, air and ferry travel.

KOSOVO

In Kosovo, snow continued to blanket the whole country and left many areas without power.

Police blamed the weather for the death Monday of an ethnic Albanian man whose body was found on a forest road.

Though all national roads were open, police advised careful driving and low speeds. Rural roads are either blocked or hard to drive. Power has been cut in many areas around the country.

POLAND

The government says 10 people died in the cold Sunday as Poland has been gripped by low temperatures. The deaths bring to 65 the number of weather-related fatalities since Nov. 1, when temperatures started falling to freezing, especially at night.

The spokeswoman for the Government Center for Security, Anna Adamkiewicz, said Monday that the latest deaths occurred across the country, either outdoors or in unheated summer cottages and abandoned houses.

The victims were nine men between the ages of 32 and 69, and a 52-year-old woman.

ROMANIA

Bucharest Mayor Gabriela Firea said inmates from two prisons would be put to work clearing snow alongside anti-riot police in the Romanian capital. The inmates working on snow removal are doing so voluntarily, Firea said.

She said the initiative would help clean up the capital's ice-clogged streets, which are only partially cleared.

Romania's Energy Minister

Toma Petcu said neighboring Bulgaria had urgently asked for extra electricity, but the request was declined since the cold weather has stretched Romania's power grid.

Petcu said natural gas consumption in Romania could reach an all-time high Monday due to the frigid temperatures.

RUSSIA

In Moscow, two people have died and 190 people with hypothermia have sought medical help in the Russian capital between New Year's Eve and Jan. 8, the last day of the holiday period in Russia, according to Russian news agencies quoting emergency medical official Sergei Gumenyuk.

The Russian Meteorological Service said the Orthodox Christmas Eve on Jan. 6 was the coldest in Moscow since 1987 when temperatures plunged below -31 C (-24 F). Moscow schools, however, opened on Monday after the holiday recess. In Russia's Urals, schools remained closed in the Tyumen, Khanty-Mansiysky, Sverdlovsk and Yamalo-Nenets regions where temperatures of -35 C (-31 F) were recorded.

SERBIA

Serbian authorities have declared emergency measures in 11 municipalities in central and southern parts of the

country as fresh snow and extremely low temperatures have blocked roads and cut off villages. Despite -28 C (-18 F), residents in remote villages on the rough Golija mountain have refused offers from authorities to evacuate their homes during the deep freeze because they won't abandon their animals.

The mostly elderly villagers said they'd rather freeze than abandon their sheep, goats, cows and chickens.

"We have wood and food for the animals," says Dragomir, one elderly resident. "We'll wait."

SWITZERLAND

Police in the southern Swiss region of Valais say a Russian couple were killed and their two children aged 11 and 15 were gravely injured over the weekend after the vehicle they were travelling in tumbled about 225 meters (740 feet) along a snow-covered Alpine road.

Officials said the driver had been trying to park on the roadside, and snowy conditions appeared to have led to the deadly plunge into a pile of rocks. The two children were taken to a local hospital before being flown by helicopter to another in the capital, Bern. They were expected to survive, officials said.

TURKEY

Turkish Airlines on Monday canceled 277 domestic and international flights to and from Istanbul's two airports due to heavy snow. Schools around Istanbul also were closed and the Istanbul governor's office said civil servants in the city would be able to leave work at 3:30 p.m. local time.

Istanbul schools will stay closed on Tuesday as snow continues to buffet the city, halting ferries on the Bosphorus Strait that provide transportation for many commuters in the city straddling the narrow gap between Asia and Europe.

Television news showed cars slithering along slippery roads and students who had been given the day off staging snowball fights and tobogganing in parks blanketed in deep snow.

At a local coffee shop, stray cats trying to escape the cold snap lined up under heaters warming an outdoor terrace used by smokers.

Focus

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP)—Former President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani will be buried in the shrine of the ayatollah who led Iran's 1979 Islamic Revolution, the same man who once proclaimed "the revolution is alive as long as Rafsanjani is alive."

The direction of that revolution and Iran's cleric-ruled political system looks less clear following Rafsanjani's death Sunday at 82.

He long served as a balance in the extremes of Iranian political thought, a go-between for reformers who seek outreach to the world and hard-liners who press for confrontation with the West. Without his behind-the-scenes influence advocating pragmatism, some fear that one side may feel free to try to overcome the other—in particular, that hard-liners could take off the gloves against moderates who have made gains in recent years.

President Hassan Rouhani's nuclear detente with world powers is seen as embodying Rafsanjani's realist vision. Rouhani is all but certain to stand for re-election in May. With Rafsanjani's death, that vote now takes on an even greater importance—as does the decision looming in the coming years on who will replace Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

"The political gravitas that Rafsanjani had went beyond political factions," said Adnan Tabatabai, an Iran analyst based in Germany who is the CEO of the Center for Applied Research in Partnership with the Orient. "He was one of the pillars, one of the powerbrokers that everyone knew that as long as he's there, somehow there will be a balance preserving the system."

Rafsanjani's life mirrored Iran's modern history. He served as the right-hand man of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, the charismatic leader of the 1979 revolution. He led the military during the ruinous war



A man weeps during a mourning ceremony for former Iranian President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, who died on Sunday after suffering a heart attack, at the Jamaran mosque in north Tehran, Iran, Monday, Jan. 9, 2017.

After Rafsanjani, Iran at a POLITICAL CROSSROADS

with Iraq in the 1980s. He helped launch Iran's nuclear program and then pushed for reconciliation with the West.

In the years after Khomeini's 1989 death, Rafsanjani represented one of an ever-shrinking number of leaders directly tied to the Islamic Revolution. Even the nation's sworn enemy, the Iranian opposition group in exile called the Mujahedeen-e-Khalq, acknowledged his role as the "one of the two pillars and key to the equilibrium" of the country.

The condolences coming from Gulf Arab countries on Rafsanjani's death show how even Iran's rivals saw him as someone with whom they could work, analysts say.

Internally, however, his legacy remains mixed. He was massively wealthy and a veteran at maneuvering within Iran's opaque political system. He was considered a protector of the moderates, but many reformers distrusted him because he was such an insider and because of accusations he was involved in kill-

ing dissidents during his eight-year presidency. Hard-liners distrusted him because of his support of moderates and sought to sideline him, but he was too powerful and entrenched to be discounted.

"I do think having one of the major revolutionary political heavyweights passing will have ramifications in a major level in terms of how domestic policy is shaped," said Ellie Geranmayeh, a policy fellow at the European Council on Foreign Relations.

"Without him being in the picture,

it means that the other political heavyweights in the system now have more force to push for their ideas."

That may not immediately affect the presidential election. Rouhani is expected to compete on the back of the nuclear deal, and there are no major hard-liners immediately known to be planning to challenge him.

However, there were clear worries that without Rafsanjani, tensions could rise between reformers and hard-liners, weakening Iran on the eve of Donald Trump's presidency in the United States. Trump has threatened to renegotiate the nuclear deal and challenge Iran militarily if provoked in the Persian Gulf.

Columnist Firouz Mahboobi warned in the Monday's pro-reform newspaper Noavaran that reformers and hard-liners must avoid any "ill-considered and rash behavior" that could disturb the election. The two camps must act with "intelligence and broadmindedness."

He said it is a dangerous time to lose Rafsanjani "given his role in balancing domestic policy and defusing the plots of unfriendly countries," particularly with Trump about to be inaugurated.

Rafsanjani's loss likely will be a greater factor whenever it becomes time to select Iran's next supreme leader.

Under Iran's theocratic government, voters democratically elect lawmakers and a president. However, the government is ultimately overseen by clerics. At the top is the office of the supreme leader, who is head of state and the highest-ranking political and religious figure in the country.

Rafsanjani served on the Assembly of Experts, the clerical body that will pick the next supreme leader.

Who will replace the 77-year-old Khamenei has become a growing question in recent years, especially after the ayatollah underwent prostate surgery in 2014.

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP)—Reactions from around the world to the death of former Iranian President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, who suffered a heart attack Sunday at the age of 82.

IRANIAN EXILED OPPOSITION

Maryam Rajavi, the leader of the political arm of the Iranian opposition group Mujahedeen-e-Khalq, said in a statement that she hoped the Islamic Republic would fall apart with Rafsanjani's passing. "With the death of Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, one of the two pillars and key to the equilibrium of the religious fascism ruling Iran has collapsed and the regime in its entirety is approaching overthrow," she said. The group, known by the acronym MEK, was listed as a terrorist organization by the State Department for years over its

World reacts to death of former Iranian leader Rafsanjani

killing of Americans. It says it renounced violence in 2001.

SAUDI ARABIA

Sunni-ruled Saudi Arabia, Shiite Iran's greatest regional rival, did not immediately express condolences over Rafsanjani's death. One of its state-run television channels aired an interview with an MEK official that linked Rafsanjani to the mass execution of thousands of prisoners at the end of the country's bloody war with Iraq in 1988.

UNITED STATES

White House press secretary Josh Earnest said Rafsanjani was a "prominent figure" and a "consequential figure" in Iran's history. He said the United States was sending its condolences to the Iranian people, but Earnest declined to speculate on how Rafsanjani's

death might affect future Iranian policy toward the U.S.

SYRIA

Syrian President Bashar Assad offered condolences in a statement that said Rafsanjani was known for his "courageous and frank stances and his hard work for the sake of the dignity and freedom of the Iranian people." Iran is a close ally of Assad's government and has provided extensive military and financial support to it during Syria's nearly six-year civil war.

TURKEY

Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu offered his condolences over Twitter, saying he was "deeply saddened" by Rafsanjani's death.

LEBANON

The secretary-general of the

Lebanese militant group Hezbollah, Hassan Nasrallah, called Rafsanjani "a great man" and a "protector and supporter" of modern political Shiism in the Middle East. He lamented Rafsanjani's passing as a loss to the Muslim world. Hezbollah, which is also a leading political party in Lebanon, was formed in the model of the political ideology that shaped Iran's Islamic Revolution and has enjoyed Iranian financial and military support since its inception in the early 1980s.

OMAN

Oman's ruler, Sultan Qaboos bin Said, sent a telegram of condolence to Iran over Rafsanjani's death. Oman long has served as an interlocutor between Iran and the West.

KUWAIT

Kuwait's ruling emir, Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah, offered condolences over Rafsanjani, saying he "prayed to Allah the almighty to bestow blessings on the deceased."

QATAR

Tiny Qatar, which shares a massive offshore natural gas field with Iran, sent condolences from ruling emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani over Rafsanjani's death.

BAHRAIN

The foreign minister of the tiny island nation, which long has accused Iran of meddling in its internal affairs, simply said "God bless" Rafsanjani in a post on Twitter. A separate condolence from King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa to Iran said he was "praying to almighty God for his soul

to rest in peace and inspire Iran's president, its people and his family."

SOUTH AFRICA

South African President Jacob Zuma issued a statement saying his nation "acknowledges President Rafsanjani's pioneering spirit in establishing stronger trade and political ties with African countries and South Africa."

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

The seven-sheikhdom federation home to Dubai, which has a large ethnic Persian population, sent condolences from its leaders to Iran over Rafsanjani's death. Emirati Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Anwar Gargash, who is among the most vocal Gulf officials in criticizing Iran, said on Twitter that Rafsanjani was "one of the voices of political realism and moderation in Iran."

First Year Death Anniversary

We, the family of the late

Josephine Torres Cabrera Hideos



Invite all our relatives and friends to join us in prayers as we commemorate the passing of our dearly beloved unto eternal life.

Daily mass will be offered at Santa Soledad Parish in Kagman every evening at 6:00 p.m. beginning Friday, January 6, 2017 and will end on Saturday, January 14, 2017.

Your presence and prayers will be greatly appreciated.

Un Dangkulo Na Si Yu'us Ma'ase
THE FAMILY

Good Housekeeping

Black and white shine in home decor

By PATRICIA SHERIDAN
PITTSBURGH POST-GAZETTE

HIGH POINT, N.C.—Design could be as simple as black and white this year. In a home, the look is dramatic, daring and timeless. Interior designer Dorothy Draper was known for her use of black and white as far back as the 1930s.

"The black and white combo has always stood the test of time, no matter the decade or design style," said designer Tobi Fairley.

She has teamed with C.R. Laine on an upholstery collection and with Woodbridge for case goods. Fairley's Elle coffee table and Eva sofa match up perfectly.

"You can't really call it a trend. It is a timeless partnership," she said.

At the Fall Furniture Market, designers revealed their favorite takes on the classic combination, which is sure to draw consumers this year.



PATRICIA SHERIDAN/PITTSBURGH POST-GAZETTE/TNS
Kelly Wearstler's Pop chest for E.J. Victor.

Designer Celerie Kemble showed off her love of simple black and white at Henredon. From her four-poster canopy bed upholstered in contrasting stripes to a living room with black lacquered display cases to a three-cushion sofa upholstered in white with black piping, she demonstrated the high level of sophistication it invokes.

Epicenters' Austin Collection used the opposites on the Leander dresser and Round Rock martini table, while designer Kelly Wearstler added black balls to her white Pop chest manufactured by E.J. Victor. Wearstler also created the Ives console from ebonized oak and white venetian stone and steel for a very sturdy contemporary look.

Furniture and accessory manufacturer Maitland-Smith

did a quirky black-faced Polar bear stool with white faux fur.

"Black and white is a sophisticated and timeless color combination," said Nathan Copeland, president of Highland House Furniture.

Highland House's Beaufort center hall table is topped in white with black beneath. "These two contrasting colors make a bold statement," Copeland said.

Some designers punch up the combo with accent colors such as red, yellow, bright green and orange.

"I love black and white on their own or combined with a big pop of color like green or gold," said Fairley.

"The color black helps to ground a room, giving it a focal point, while the color white provides a sense of freshness," Copeland said.



PATRICIA SHERIDAN/PITTSBURGH POST-GAZETTE/TNS
A Tobi Fairley coffee table is paired with her Eva sofa for C.R. Laine in Derek Onyx fabric.

† Anunciacion Aquino Reyes

LOVINGLY KNOWN AS NUNCHING

DOB: November 15, 1941 · DOD: January 5, 2017



Husband: †Alfonso San Nicolas Reyes

Parents: †Rosalia Fleming, †Alfred Fleming, †Felipe F. Aquino

Father and Mother In Laws: †Vicente Reyes, †Maria Reyes

Brothers and Sisters: †Carmen Aquino, †Joaquin Fleming, †James A. & Constanza Fleming, Ellen Santos, Michael A. and Esther Fleming, †Consolacion F. & Donald Power, Thomas A. Fleming, Deborah F. & Kerat Mony.

Children, Grandchildren and Great Grandchildren:

Felipe Aquino & Nora Aquino: Noralynn Aquino; Kaisha & Darrence - Kayeana Namakot, Janessa; Phylleshia; Felipe Jr.; Hannekah; Ina Bonita; Brandon

Rosalia Manuela: Adan Alfred & Nancy Manlulu - Bianca; Rodel Jr & Darling Ayuyu; Romer Manlulu & Geneil Torres - Amelia Teresita, Fianna Mae; Rosalia Mae, Ronie

Mary A. Reyes: Cicely Borja & James Brown - Aleecia, Chloe Marie

†Dominic A. Reyes

Lavina A. Reyes

Elaine & Peter T. Dela Cruz - Pia-Elayne; Peter II; Prestin-Peter; Pevika

Alfonso & Marian Dic. Reyes - Ha'ani & Nino; DiaNoah; Aysha; Journey

Anthony Reyes & Angela Reyes - Napu Anthony; Osi; Tano; Diseya; Inatua

Joaquin & Velma M. Reyes - Vella Isis

Alejandro Reyes & Joelyn Arriola - Winnicia; Hagen

She will also be missed by numerous Godchildren, aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces and nephews.

Nightly Rosary is being offered Daily @ 7:00 pm at San Jose Parish Church Tinian.

Funeral services will be held On Friday, January 13, 2017 @ 7:30 am. Her remains will be escorted from Tinian Health Center Morgue To San Jose Church, Tinian @ 7:15. Responso services and Holy Rosary will take place upon arrival.

Mass Of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:00 am followed by Interment Service.

Thank You, Si Yu'us Ma'ase
Children And Family

GOING HOME

Rita Julia Deleon Guerrero Pangelinan Villagomez

(LOVINGLY KNOWN AS RITAN PINGKINA)
JUNE 17, 1933 ~ DECEMBER 31, 2016

*As 2016 begins to fold,
Our Heavenly Father closed
the book of our dearly
beloved mother, **Rita**,
and called her to Paradise
on December 31, 2016.*

Born on June 17, 1933, *our beloved mother* sailed to her new home where she will be greeted and welcomed at Heaven's gate by her *husband, our father, Dr. Jose Tenorio Villagomez*, and will be reunited with her *parents - Joaquin Sablan and Angelina Deleon Guerrero Pangelinan; Magdalena Terlaje Pangelinan; granddaughter - Maria Fleming Villagomez; her sister and brothers - Margarita Pangelinan Flores Kintol; Gonzalo DLG., and John Manuel "JP" DLG. Pangelinan; Alejo T. Aldan; Jesus T. Aldan; parents-in-law - Jesus Seman and Joaquina Tenorio Villagomez; brothers and sisters-in-law - Edward A. Flores, Herman M. Kintol; Gilbert C. Ada, Gregorio S. Calvo; Herman T. and Andresina C. Villagomez; Manuel T. Villagomez; Francisco T. Villagomez; Dionicio C. and Merced T. Torres.*

Rita was a very kind, caring and most especially a very loving person with a big heart. As a mother, her passion was to be with her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren and she left behind fond memories of her that will forever be treasured in their hearts – *Joaquina V./James A. Santos [Pingkina /Aleina Hofschneider and Jacqueline /Don Teregeyo (Lincoln James)]; Joseph Kevin P. /Lina L. Villagomez [Gillian and Jon Joseph]; Timothy P. Villagomez [Renaesha V./Jonathan Sablan (Zavier and Nevaeh)]; Jose "Ping"; Rita V./Manny Flores, Juanita V./Nicholas Nunez, Timothy II and Kirida Rose]; Rowena V./Jess C. Aldan [Corina /Shane Hawley (Hope Avani) and Joseph]; Joaquin Timothy (Kindo) P. Villagomez; David/Darlene A. Castro [Joanne/Frank; †Frankie/†Jennifer; Elson/Virginia; Sheila C./Ruby P. Chong (Riana Isa and Dylan Storm; and Savana]. Rita's memories will also live on in the hearts of her *brothers, sisters, and spouses and their families – Isabel P./Segundo Duenas and family; Selina P. Stein and family; Sophia P./Pedro P. Tenorio and family; Herman DLG. and Christina O. Pangelinan; Gordon T. and Alice V. Pangelinan and family; Evelyn P. Calvo and family; Faustina A. Ada and family; Jerri Aldan and family; and Felix Torres and family; aunt-in-law – Concepcion Tenorio Sablan and family; sister-in-law – Marylou Castillo Villagomez and family; children of Herman T. /Andresina C. Villagomez; Caregivers – Rey V. Alday; Gladdy Esmende; Juanita Famoso; Susan Julian and Rnel Paguio. Rita is additionally survived by numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, nephews, godchildren and special friends.**

Daily masses of intention is offered each morning at 6:00 at Mount Carmel Cathedral.

Rita will be with us for the last time on Saturday, January 14, 2017. Her funeral cortege will leave Borja Funeral Home at 8:00 a.m. to Mount Carmel Cathedral. Responso and public visitation will be at 8:30 a.m. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00 a.m. Interment service will follow immediately at Mount Carmel Cemetery where she will be at her final resting place with her husband Dr. Jose Tenorio Villagomez.

Your thoughts, prayers, words of comfort and presence are sincerely appreciated.

Joaquina, Joe Kevin, Timothy, Rowena, Joaquin, David and families





Life & Style

Italian firm restoring Nativity Church: Like touching heaven

ROME (AP)—The Italian firm restoring one of Christianity’s holiest sites—the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem—says it’s more than halfway finished with the 14 million-euro project, which has already uncovered a Crusades-era mosaic angel hidden under plaster.

Piacenti SpA, a family-run conservation firm from the Tuscan town of Prato, won the contract to restore the biblical place of Jesus’ birth and began work in 2013 alongside Palestinian workers.

The overhaul became necessary after UNESCO listed the site as endangered, with its leaky roof, rotting wood beams and centuries of built-up candle wax that blackened the brilliant mosaics ringing the interior.

Piacenti CEO Giammarco Piacenti said Monday the work is among the most satisfying of the restorers’ careers because they are “touching heaven with their fingers.”

The high point so far has been the discovery between two windows of a mosaic angel that had been covered over with plaster following an earthquake in the 1830s. The angel—the seventh in a sequence of angels walking toward the site of the Nativity—emerged after restorers using thermographic cameras noticed a change in the plaster color.

“We started to search and then the first tiles of the mosaic appeared, soon a wave of

euphoria raced through all the restorers,” Piacenti said. “This was a beautiful discovery.”

The Church of the Nativity was first built by St. Helena in the 4th century over the grotto where the Virgin Mary is said to have given birth to Jesus. Rebuilt in the 6th century, it is a major pilgrimage site bringing sorely needed tourism funds to the West Bank town.

The Roman Catholic, Greek Orthodox and Armenian churches share ownership of the church, and run it according to a 19th-century agreement that assigns responsibilities for upkeep that are jealously guarded by each denomination.

The churches have traditionally viewed each other with suspicion and have had fraught relations that prevented previous restoration efforts. But the Palestinian Authority eventually persuaded them to agree to the works after it became clear the church was falling into potentially disastrous ruin.

The restoration, which Piacenti estimated would cost 14 million euros, has progressed in phases as funding has come through from countries and individual donors, particularly from the Palestinian diaspora. He estimated another five million euros was still needed.

Clooney hopes Trump presidency will not result in ‘terrible things’

LONDON (AP)—George Clooney didn’t vote for Donald Trump and doesn’t think he’s the right choice to run the United States. But he hopes Trump succeeds in office.

“We have to hope that he can do a decent job, because when the president of the United States fails, really terrible things happen,” Clooney said Monday at London reception for Syria rescue-workers documentary “The White Helmets.”

Clooney, who supported Democratic candidate Hillary Clinton in the presidential contest, said the United States has generally been lucky in its presidents.

“When we needed a first president, we had George Washington,” he said. “We had Jefferson, Adams.

“When we had the Civil War, we had Lincoln,” he added, rattling off other officeholders—Roosevelt, Kennedy—before suggesting that the U.S. “got a little unlucky” with the George W. Bush presidency in the years after 9/11.

“I think we’re going to be a little unlucky now,” Clooney said. “I can only hope for the best.”

The actor defended fellow star Meryl Streep after she took aim at the president-elect in a speech at Sunday night’s Golden Globe Awards.

In reply, Trump tweeted that Streep was “overrated” and a “flunky” of Clinton.

Clooney said that “I support her right forever” to speak out.

Clooney’s production company is working on a feature-film version of the story of the Syrian Civil Defense “White Helmets,” search-and-rescue teams who have gained international recognition for rescuing people from bombed-out buildings in the Syrian city of Aleppo.

He and his lawyer wife, Amal Clooney, have given their support to the Netflix-backed documentary, which is on the 10-strong Academy Awards shortlist for best documentary short.

Clooney said that as a celebrity, “I can’t change policy ... but I can make things louder.

In Celebration of His New Life

†CHARLES WOODROW INGRAM

NOVEMBER 11, 1940 - DECEMBER 05, 2016



In his new life, he now joins his:
Parents: †Charles W. Ingram
†Nancy H. Ingram
Brothers in Law: †Gregorio B. Sablan

His memories will forever live in the hearts of his:
Wife: Concepcion S. Ingram

Children and Grandchildren:
Rudy Ingram
James and Maria Ana Ingram
James Ingram & Shelly Sablan
(Sheyanne Jayde, Shane Jace)
Lincoln Ingram
Charles Ingram
Tricia Ann Ingram & Glen Vidal (Colin Vidal)
Aubrey Antonio

Charles Ingram
Irene I. and Jeffrey Matthijssen
Kristel & Ian Arnott (Evan Arnott)
Clifford Harrington & Victoria Llanes
(Hailey Harrington)
Jessica Matthijssen
Dyanna Matthijssen

Thomas and Pauline Ingram
Douglas Ingram
Jonathan Ingram (Jaezyn Kekauhuna)
Kaprice Pedro (Kyrie Pedro)
Jennifer Ingram
Stephanie Ingram

Second Wife: Helen R. Ingram (Christine Rota)

He will be greatly missed by numerous great grandchildren, nieces, nephews, cousins, relatives and friends.

Funeral Services will be held on Friday, January 13, 2017. His remains will be escorted at 8:00 am from Nuestra Senora dela Paz Memorial Chapel to Mount Carmel Cathedral. Responso Service and Holy Rosary will take place upon arrival of remains.

Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:30 am and Interment Service will follow at CNMI Veterans Cemetery, Marpi where he will be at a peaceful rest.

Please join us in prayers.
Thank you - Si Yu’us Ma’ase

The Family

Meryl Streep overrated? Donald Trump picks a decorated star

NEW YORK (AP)—President-elect Donald Trump took to Twitter on Monday, calling Meryl Streep “one of the most over-rated actresses in Hollywood” following her speech Sunday night at the Golden Globe awards.

Trump’s “overrated” remark follows one he made in 2015 to The Hollywood Reporter in which he called Streep one of his favorite actresses and a “fine person, too.”

While “overrated” is an opinion, Streep, who took aim at Trump in her speech while accepting the Globes lifetime achievement award, holds the record for the most Academy Award nominations

of any actor. She has earned 19 Oscar nominations and three wins, as well as a record 29 Golden Globe nominations and eight wins, and two Emmy Awards.

Plus there’s a Presidential Medal of Freedom, not to mention 10 People’s Choice Awards, two British Academy Film Awards, four National Society of Film Critics Awards, two Screen Actors Guild Awards, a Kennedy Center Honor and has been named a Commandeur de l’Ordre des Arts et des Lettres, the highest civilian honor given by the French government.

She’s also earned a Tony Award nomination, five



AP
Meryl Streep poses in the press room with the Cecil B. DeMille award at the 74th annual Golden Globe Awards at the Beverly Hilton Hotel on Sunday, Jan. 8, 2017, in Beverly Hills, Calif.

Grammy Award nominations, the American Film Institute’s Life Achievement Award, an MTV Movie Award for Best Villain, an American Comedy Award, an Irish Film and Television Award, two Italian Online Movie Awards, two Teen Choice Award nominations and two Screen Actors Guild Awards. Additionally, there have been honors from film critics from Toronto, St. Louis, San Francisco, Phoenix, Palm

Springs, New Jersey, Iowa, Kansas City, Las Vegas, Florida, North Texas, Oklahoma and Washington, D.C.

Trump and Streep, who spoke on behalf of Hillary Clinton at last year’s Democratic National Convention, are far apart on politics and have found themselves on opposite ends in Hollywood when it comes to honors. He has two Emmy nominations—no wins—for best outstanding reality competition. But he beat her to one award—a Golden Raspberry. He won a worst supporting actor trophy in 1989, appearing opposite Bo Derek in the crime comedy “Ghosts Can’t Do It.”

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Angelina Jolie Pitt and Brad Pitt have reached an agreement to handle their divorce in a private forum and will work together to reunify their family, the actors announced in a joint statement Monday.

Their statement released Monday night to The Associated Press said that they will keep future details of their divorce confidential by using a private judge.

Jolie Pitt and Brad Pitt reach divorce pact

“The parties and their counsel have signed agreements to preserve the privacy rights of their children and family by keeping all court documents confidential and engaging a private judge to make any necessary legal decisions and to facilitate the expeditious resolution of any remaining issues,” their statement read. “The parents are

committed to act as a united front to effectuate recovery and reunification.”

The statement is the first joint comment from the actors on their divorce since Jolie Pitt filed to end their marriage in September. At the time, one of her attorneys stated the petition was filed “for the health of the family.”

Authorities investigated al-

legations that Pitt was abusive toward his 15-year-old son on a private flight, but sources familiar with the cases said the actor was cleared of any wrongdoing.

Private judges are often used in high-profile divorce cases, keeping many details of a breakup out of the public eye while a final judgment is negotiated.

Man arrested in the case of the ‘HOLLYWeeD’ sign

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Los Angeles police have made a “HOLLYWeeD” bust.

Zachary Cole Fernandez, 30, was arrested Monday, just over a week after a prankster used white tarps to make the “HOLLYWOOD” sign read “HOLLYWeeD,” the LAPD said in a statement.

Fernandez turned himself in with his attorney and was booked on suspicion of misdemeanor trespassing, police said.

The prankster was dressed in black and was recorded by security cameras in the area changing the sign early New Year’s Day.

Fernandez, an artist, had already claimed credit for the stunt in a Vice magazine interview, but police had not previously confirmed his involvement.

Fernandez told the Vice he had heard someone pulled the

same prank in the 1970s, and he sought to repeat it to “bring positivity into the world.”

Fernandez will be released on his own recognizance and must return to court Feb. 15, police said.

Contact information to request comment could not be found for Fernandez or his attorney.

David Ryu, the city councilman for the area of the Hollywood sign, said such pranks “deplete the resources of our valuable public safety personnel, in both responding to the prank and in responding to the increased crowds and copycat attempts that these incidents generate.”

He added, “While the Hollywood Sign is an internationally recognized icon, it is located in a large urban wilderness park next to thousands of residential homes.”

Harper’s Bazaar marks 150th year with fashionable women list

NEW YORK (AP) — Madonna, Emma Stone, Willow Smith and first lady Michelle Obama are among 150 women chosen by editors of Harper’s Bazaar as the world’s most fashionable.

The magazine’s first-ever such list comes in celebration of its 150th anniversary, Editor-in-Chief Glenda Bailey

said Monday. Madonna was chosen as cover girl for the group in the February issue.

The list, released Tuesday, is comprised of Hollywood A-listers, music elite, fashion designers, celebrity stylists, Instagram It ladies and other mavens.

Star power definitely prevails: Rihanna, the former Kate Middleton, Liu Wen, Kristen

Stewart, Naomi Campbell, Miranda Kerr, Kendall Jenner and big sister Kim Kardashian West, Kaia Gerber and her mother, Cindy Crawford, Beyonce, Zendaya, Lady Gaga, Taylor Swift, Adele, Gwen Stefani, Riley Keough, Lupita Nyong’o, Amal Clooney, Gia Coppola, Cindy Sherman, Roopal Patel and Olivia Palermo.

Editors of the Hearst magazine around the world—it has 32 editions worldwide—voted for their favorites.

“Our lists were more or less the same,” Bailey said in an interview. “These women are renowned for style around the world. And they all have such very different styles. This is in praise of the individual.”

Wife who escaped abusive marriage must not go back

DEAR ABBY: In the beginning of our marriage there was physical abuse and marital rape. I stayed anyway. Over the years we had two children. My husband, “Seth,” and I don’t communicate because he has refused to talk about any issues we have. During the last few years, my youngest son has also become physically abusive to me.

I tried to leave many times but failed until last December when, because I had a heart attack, I finally moved in with family. I did it for the sake of my health and my sanity.

Seth now wants to talk about our issues. He suggested that I come back home. He has several medical problems, so I was taking care of all the household chores and working two jobs. My children will not help with the chores unless I scream and yell for hours.

I no longer love my husband. He wants to romance me and try to make me love him again. He is also very controlling. He feels I “owe” him a chance to prove that he loves me and can change. Am I wrong for leaving and letting go? I’m very confused.

LETTING GO IN FLORIDA

DEAR LETTING GO: You owe this man absolutely nothing! If you allow Seth the chance to romance you into coming back to take care of him, you will wind up exactly where you started.

Your son abuses you because that is what he saw his father doing—and you allowed it. If you stand your ground now, it will show your son that abuse is not to be tolerated.

I hope you will teach him that lesson because it is an important one for him to learn.

DEAR ABBY: Four months ago my wife started wearing more makeup, perfume and trying new things with her hair. It began after she was promoted to store manager. Recently, I found out that someone has been flirting with her. (She would never have told me on her own.)

Our sex life has decreased more and more over the last few months. She barely speaks to me now and spends most of her time on Facebook. She refuses to discuss our relationship, and I suspect she may be looking for someone new or has already found him.

I just don’t get it. I love her. We have been married for nine years. Please help me to understand.

FEELING LONELY

DEAR FEELING LONELY: Your wife may not want to discuss your relationship, but sometimes it’s the things people least want to talk about that most need to be. If you haven’t already, tell your wife you have noticed the changes in her behavior and in your level of intimacy, and you miss it. Tell her you love her and feel your marriage is threatened.

If she still doesn’t want to discuss your relationship, tell her it’s time the two of you go see a marriage and family therapist together. What you were told may be no more than a flirtation, but if it’s more than that, it’s better you know sooner rather than later. I hope your wife will agree,

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

but if she doesn’t, then for your own sake, get some counseling without her.

DEAR ABBY: Do you field more questions from unmarried couples living together than from married couples? I can only judge from what is printed.

INQUISITIVE IN VIRGINIA

DEAR INQUISITIVE: That’s an interesting question. Frankly, I have never broken down the letters into categories like “married” or “cohabiting.” Many people live together before marriage today, but eventually progress to formalizing their relationship. Others do not. Married or not, their relationship questions interest me, or I wouldn’t print them.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order “How to Have a Lovely Wedding.” Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

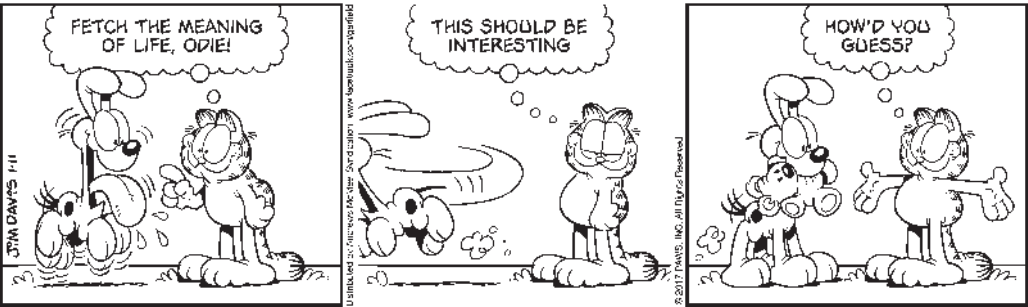
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



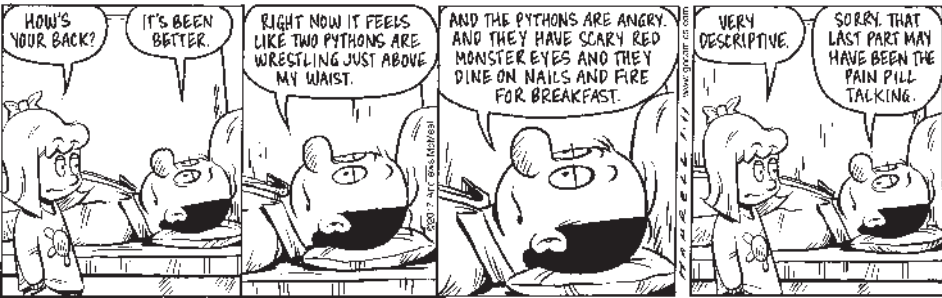
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



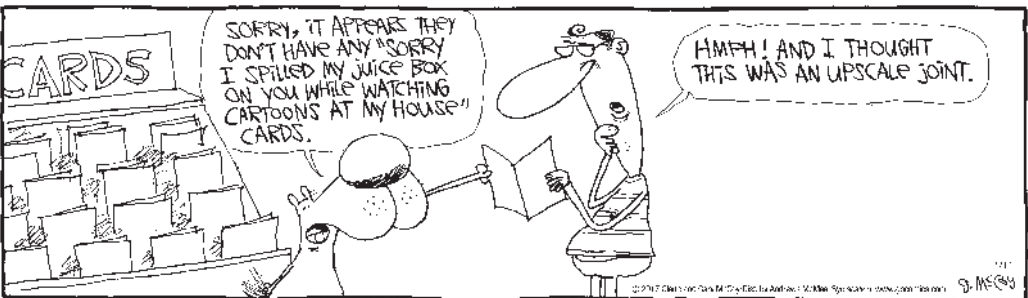
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Droop
4 Tag sale words
8 Mush-roomed
12 U.N. workers' gp.
13 Nobelist
14 Walesa
15 QB Tony
16 Dance floor query
18 Israeli port
20 Prof's degree
21 — many words
24 "Uncle!"
28 Baked with cheese on top
32 Author Bagnold
33 — -de-France
34 Biblical spy
36 Chemical suffix
37 Tailless cat
39 News flash
41 Golf great Sam

DOWN

1 Punjabi believer
2 Pond growth
3 Asian desert
4 Fact book
5 Mer-maid's home
6 Glacial
7 Model in a bottle
8 Deep-seated ill will
9 Decay
10 Brit. record label
11 Tri-umphed
17 Greek X
19 Tall tree
22 Wild guess
23 Prepare for a body-building contest
25 Mono-gram pt.
26 Caesar's "I saw"
27 Paradise
28 Goals
29 —
30 Hereditary unit
31 Dickens girl
35 Flatterer's forte
38 Citizen Kane's estate
40 Disney deer
42 N.J. neighbor
45 Ankara resident
47 Shape-less sci-fi villain
48 Hay unit
49 Notion
50 "2001" computer
51 Here, in Dijon
52 Service charge
53 Spanish aunt
54 Follower (Suff.)

Solution time: 24 mins.

Yesterday's answer 1-11

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11
12 13 14
15 16 17
18 19 20
21 22 23 24 25 26 27
28 29 30 31 32
33 34 35 36
37 38 39 40
41 42 43
44 45 46 47 48 49
50 51 52 53 54 55
56 57 58
59 60 61

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:

Amanda Peet, 45; Mary J. Blige, 46; Kim Coles, 55; Naomi Judd, 71.

Happy Birthday: Assess personal relationships and reconnect with people from your past. Looking back will help you figure out how to move forward. Making subtle changes to the way you look, live or do things will improve your popularity and give you greater insight. Don't feel the need to follow others when you should be the one leading the way. Your numbers are 8, 17, 23, 27, 34, 38, 41.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Don't share personal information about your finances or your professional goals. It's best to make any adjustments to your qualifications or skills quietly. Patience will pay off when you're ready to present what you have to offer. **

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Ask questions, show interest and share your ideas with people who have more experience than you, and you will discover the best way to proceed with your plans. Get involved, sign up for something you believe in and make a difference. ****

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Moderation and setting guidelines regarding what you will and won't do will be necessary. Deal with demanding people by choosing to do your own thing. Don't be a follower when you should be the one who is responsible and leading the way. ***

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Open up, share your emotions and explore possibilities with someone you enjoy spending time with. A makeover or refreshing your appearance to fit current trends will result in compliments. Stick to a budget and avoid making impulse purchases. ***

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Dealing with institutions or colleagues will require finesse and plenty of preparation. Get your facts straight and make your presentation fail-proof. You can make a difference or bring about helpful changes if you are astute. ***

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): What you do for others will make a difference when you need something in return. Make this a day of listening and talking and you will build stronger relationships. Share your thoughts, feelings and plans for the future with someone you love. ****

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Do what's expected of you and keep a low profile. If you can put up with someone's disgruntled attitude, you will be able to take care of some of the things that matter to both of you. Be mindful rather than critical. **

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Home improvements, investments and personal gains can all be made if you stay focused on your dreams and put forth a solid effort. Your tenacity and enthusiasm will help you convince others to support your goals. A commitment can be made. *****

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Make a point to relay information directly. Sticking to the facts will help you clear up an emotional situation that has left you in an awkward position. Evading personal situ-

EUGENIA LAST
THE LAST WORD
IN ASTROLOGY

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ations will only make matters worse. Be honest and move forward. ***

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Stay focused on the things you enjoy doing most and you'll find a way to incorporate your desires into the way you earn your living. A small step forward will far outweigh making an impulsive move. Love is on the rise. ***

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Don't be too eager to share personal information. Emotions will be difficult to control if a money matter arises due to someone's foolish spending. Look for alternative ways to cut your overhead in order to save for something special. ***

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): It's what you do that will make a difference. Take action and follow through with your plans. Updating your look to fit the current trends will grab positive attention from your peers as well as someone you love. *****

Birthday Baby: You are sensitive, intuitive and creative. You are inventive and progressive. Eugenia's website—eugenialast.com. Eugenia's android app @ <http://bit.ly/exhoro> and join Eugenia on twitter/facebook/linkedin.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

1	7	6	8	5	3	9	2
9				7			
8				3			
3	8	4		6	1	2	
			1				3
			4				7
			2				1
			3				6
6	2	3		1	5	8	

Difficulty Level ★★★ 1/11

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

1	9	4	8	2	6	7	3	5
3	7	8	5	1	4	2	9	6
2	5	6	9	3	7	4	1	8
7	2	9	6	8	1	3	5	4
6	3	5	4	7	9	1	8	2
8	4	1	2	5	3	9	6	7
4	1	7	3	6	8	5	2	9
5	6	3	7	9	2	8	4	1
9	8	2	1	4	5	6	7	3

Difficulty Level: ★★ 3/11

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

WINDOWS 10 Solution: 7 letters

F	P	O	W	E	R	A	D	N	E	L	A	C	A	S
I	N	S	T	A	L	L	H	E	L	L	O	O	C	O
L	G	H	E	R	U	T	C	I	P	M	R	R	C	T
E	A	C	M	E	N	U	D	P	G	E	T	O	O	
S	M	R	U	S	P	E	O	U	A	E	A	A	U	H
T	E	A	D	U	V	O	T	N	N	S	C	N	N	P
R	R	E	I	O	D	E	I	S	K	L	T	A	T	A
E	T	S	O	L	R	Z	H	B	I	V	I	D	E	O
A	A	R	E	S	E	O	A	P	P	S	V	V	T	P
M	G	D	E	D	T	R	S	U	P	D	A	T	E	O
O	P	A	N	S	S	A	S	S	I	S	T	A	N	T
V	E	T	E	H	W	G	R	A	P	H	I	C	O	K
I	G	A	E	D	O	M	T	X	B	O	X	C	S	
E	D	R	S	E	C	U	R	I	T	Y	N	S	I	E
S	E	M	A	G	T	E	L	B	A	T	Y	P	E	D

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Yesterday's Answer: Application
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Bank of Saipan

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY
JOB VACANCY

POSITION: Loans Processor

Job Summary:

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- Interview loan applicants to obtain personal and financial data and to assist in completing applications.
- Assemble and compile documents for loan closings, such as title abstracts, insurance forms, loan forms, and tax receipts.
- Answer questions and advise customers regarding loans and transactions.
- Contact customers by mail, telephone, or in person concerning acceptance or rejection of applications.

Qualifications: High School Graduate or Equivalent, must demonstrate excellent Microsoft Office Skills, must have excellent communication and customer service skills.

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Robert Tenorio Torres
Attorney at Law
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)
P.O. Box 503758
Saipan, MP 96950

Tel: (670) 234-7859
Fax: (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Petitioner: Eugene Pangelinan

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF) Civil Action
THE ESTATE OF:) No. 16-0255C
SUMMONS

CECILIA REYES)
PANGELINAN,) NOTICE OF HEARING
ON PETITION FOR
LETTERS OF)
Decedent.) ADMINISTRATOR and
)
) NOTICE TO CREDITORS
) Date: February 2, 2017
) Time: 9:00 a.m.
) Judge: Joseph N. Camacho

TO: THE GENERAL PUBLIC, ANY HEIRS,
CLAIMANTS, OR CREDITORS OF THE LATE CECILIA
REYES PANGELINAN OR OF HER ESTATE:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Petitioner, Eugene Pangelinan of Pohnpei State, FSM ("Petitioner"), has petitioned the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands for Letter of Administration of the Estate of Cecilia Reyes Pangelinan, Decedent. The attorney for Petitioner is Robert T. Torres, Esq., whose address is Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950. The hearing on the Petition for Letters of Administration by Eugene Pangelinan, as Petitioner, is scheduled to be heard on February 2, 2017 at 9:00am, at the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guma' Hustisia, Civic Center, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All interested persons or entities should appear at this hearing. Any and all persons, creditors or entities having claims against the Decedent or her estate are hereby required by law to file their claims with the Clerk of Court within Sixty (60) days of from the first publication, or the claim(s) will be barred. A copy of your claim should also be sent to ROBERT TENORIO TORRES, Attorney at Law, at the address herein-above indicated. Dated this 29th day of December, 2016.

/s/ Clerk of Court/Deputy Clerk

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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT # 07-2016

Opening date: December 28, 2016 Closing date: January 13, 2017

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(1) ARFF Trainee (Saipan) (1) Vessel Traffic Controller (Saipan)
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Employment Application must be accompanied with a copy of all required diploma/certificates and/or official sealed transcripts, original copy of recent police record not more than six (6) months old, original copy of U.S. Department of Defense Form DD214 for retired members or veterans of our Armed Forces, and other documents as required for the position. Public Law 11-70 requires that all male applicants age 18 to 25 years old must submit documentation evidencing his registration with the Federal Selective Service System. All applications and required documents must be submitted to the CPA Administration Office, 2nd Floor Arrival Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport. Failure to provide any of the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. Certain vacancies may require written and/or physical test. Selected applicants will be subjected to pre-employment drug screening, 10 year Criminal History Record Check and 49 CFR Part 1542.209(d) Requirements. CPA reserves the right to waive or implement other qualifications to meet its needs. The deadline for submission of applications and required documents to the CPA Administration Office is no later than 4:30 p.m., Friday, January 13, 2017.

Detailed information on qualifications and position description for the above positions shall be picked up along with the application form from Monday-Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., except on holidays, at the CPA's Administration Office (2nd Floor) of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Arrival Terminal. For additional information, please contact the CPA Human Resources Office by email at cpa.personnel@pticom.com or by phone at (670) 237-6500.

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Executive Director

Bank of Saipan

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY
JOB VACANCY

POSITION: Teller

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES: Receive and pay out money. Keep records of money and negotiable instruments involved in a financial institution's various transactions.

POSITION: Bank Statement Clerk

JOB SUMMARY: Responsible for preparing and sending out bank statements to customers. Answers authorized clients questions and be able to review, identify and correct discrepancies in accounts.

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COMPENSATION: Salary will be based upon qualification and work experience.

Deadline for submission of Application/Resume will be January 13, 2017
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WHATZIT Solution: Café au lait

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Westbrook, Thunder cruise past Bulls, 109-94



CHICAGO (AP)—Even Russell Westbrook was impressed with the passing by Oklahoma City's big men.

Westbrook flirted with another triple-double and Steven Adams led a dominant effort in the paint, helping the Thunder pull away from the Chicago Bulls for an easy 109-94 victory Monday night.

Westbrook had 21 points, 14 assists and nine rebounds, falling just short of his 18th triple-double of the season. But his all-around performance is practically a sure thing these days.

It was the inside play of Adams and Enes Kanter that really hurt Chicago, with the big men scoring with ease or passing out of double-teams to set up their teammates.

"They do a great job of playing off each other," Westbrook said.

Adams had 22 points on 11-for-14 shooting, and Kanter finished with 20 points and 11 rebounds. The duo helped the Thunder to 56.6 percent shooting from the field, a 60-36 advantage on points in the paint and a 42-38 edge in rebounding.

"I thought tonight, on both ends of the floor, we played at a high level," coach Billy Donovan said.

Dwyane Wade led Chicago with 22 points, and Michael Carter-Williams had 15. Cristiano Felicio finished with 11 points and 11 rebounds.

The Bulls had won three in a row and five of seven, but



Oklahoma City Thunder's Jermi Grant dunks as Chicago Bulls' Paul Zipser (16), Cristiano Felicio (6), Steven Adams, and Bobby Portis, right, watch during the second half of an NBA basketball game Monday, Jan. 9, 2017, in Chicago.

they were no match for the Thunder with Jimmy Butler hampered by an illness. The reigning Eastern Conference player of the week had one point on 0-for-6 shooting and seven assists.

"I appreciate him coming out and giving it a shot. That says a lot about him, as a competitor, but he was really struggling, obviously," coach Fred Hoiberg said.

Butler was sent home after

he left the game in the third quarter, and Hoiberg said Butler will not play Tuesday night against Washington. Wade, who turns 35 on Jan. 17, also will rest against the Wizards.

"Jimmy can't put up 50 every night. We have to do better. We have to support him a lot better," Bulls forward Taj Gibson said.

Gibson's three-point play off a slick pass from Wade got

Chicago within 10 with 6:51 left in the third, but Westbrook helped the Thunder put it away from there.

The dynamic point guard threw an alley-oop to Adams and then found the center for a layup. Westbrook set up Andre Roberson for a 3-pointer and a cutting dunk. Kanter added a driving layup with 54 seconds left, helping Oklahoma City to an 89-67 lead after three.

Pelicans 110, Knicks 96

In New York, Anthony Davis had 40 points and 18 rebounds before leaving with a left hip injury after a hard foul in New Orleans' victory over New York, which started the game without Derrick Rose and lost Carmelo Anthony to an ejection.

Rose was not with the team for unspecified reasons and Anthony was back in the locker room late in the third quarter after getting thrown

out for arguing with the officials.

Davis played only 29 minutes and blocked three shots. He left the game when he was flagrantly fouled by Kyle O'Quinn, ejected for swinging his arm down hard on Davis, who was dribbling up the floor on a fast break and ended up being knocked into the front row of fans behind the baseline.

Anthony had 18 points for the Knicks, who lost for the eighth time in nine games and had problems well beyond their non-existent defense.

Timberwolves 101, Mavericks 92

In Minneapolis, Karl-Anthony Towns had 34 points and 11 rebounds while Ricky Rubio added 13 points and a season-high 15 assists as Minnesota ended a four-game losing streak with victory over Dallas.

Harrison Barnes scored 30 points for the Mavericks and Dirk Nowitzki had 26, including five 3-pointers.

Towns hit 15 of 19 shots from the floor as the Timberwolves shot 56.3 percent.

Rubio scored nine points in the fourth quarter, including consecutive baskets during an 8-0 run that gave the Timberwolves some breathing room after Dallas had whittled a 21-point lead to 81-77.

Knicks PG Derrick Rose misses game for unknown reason

NEW YORK (AP)—Derrick Rose missed the New York Knicks' loss to New Orleans on Monday night for reasons that remained unclear.

The Knicks would not comment on Rose's whereabouts or anything else about his absence, though center Joakim Noah said after the game that he had spoken to Rose, and his longtime Chicago teammate was OK.

"Obviously, Derrick's one of our better players and when he's not here it's tough, but just happy that everything is OK with him," Noah said.

Noah didn't provide any details of their conversation.

Rose practiced with the team during its morning shootaround, and coach Jeff Hornacek gave no indication shortly before the game that the point guard would not be available.

Brandon Jennings started at the point, with the Knicks saying only that Rose was not with the team. Even New York players weren't aware of the



New York Knicks guard Derrick Rose (25) drives the ball into the Indiana Pacer's defense during the first half of an NBA basketball game, Saturday, Jan. 7, 2017, in Indianapolis.

17.3 points. He didn't play in the fourth quarters of their games at Milwaukee and Indiana last weekend, though Hornacek said those benchings weren't an issue.

Hornacek said the Knicks couldn't provide any further information until the team had heard from Rose himself, but did say he expected the 2011 NBA MVP back at some point.

"Everything will become clear later on," Hornacek said. "We want to respect whatever he's going through and we're just not going to comment about it."

Rose is in his first season with the Knicks, who acquired him from Chicago on the eve of the NBA draft in June. He will be a free agent after this season.

details after the team's 110-96 loss to the Pelicans.

"We don't know what is going on," forward Kristaps Porzingis said. "I hope Derrick is fine. I have zero information about what is going

on. So hopefully they tell me something as soon as possible because this is ... weird and everybody is worried."

Rose has played in 33 of 37 games during his first season with the Knicks, averaging

Sorry, Pop: The Spurs are historically good at 3-pointers

By **TIM REYNOLDS**
AP BASKETBALL WRITER

There was a coaching clinic in Berlin back in 2014, when San Antonio coach Gregg Popovich paced along the sideline for a while and talked about his various philosophies and keys to basketball success.

It didn't take him long to mention his disdain for the 3-point shot, which is no secret.

So imagine this irony: His Spurs, this season, are shooting the 3 as well as just about any team in league history.

Overlooked, perhaps, in their 30-7 start this season is this. The Spurs are connecting on 41.3 percent of their 3s—on pace to be the third-best success rate since the shot was added to the NBA game nearly four decades ago. Only the 1996-97 Charlotte Hornets

(42.8 percent) and last season's Golden State Warriors (41.6) shot it better than San Antonio has to this point.

"I hate it," Popovich said that day in Berlin. "It's not real basketball."

Ah, but it can be part of smart basketball, as the Spurs keep showing.

Houston has missed more 3s this season than the Spurs have taken—by a lot, too. Entering Sunday, only Chicago was averaging fewer 3-point attempts per game than San Antonio.

But the Spurs take good ones.

They're making 45 percent of their corner 3s, 40 percent of ones taken from above the break. And the Spurs are on pace to be the first team in NBA history to shoot better than .400 from 3-point range and .800 from the foul line.

Reese: Giants investigating hole in wall outside locker room



EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J.
(AP)—New York Giants general manager Jerry

Reese has told star receiver Odell Beckham Jr. that he needs to look at some of his antics on and off the field and be more responsible.

Beckham has been under the microscope for the past week after taking a one-day trip to Miami with some fellow receivers after the regular-season finale with a wild-card playoff game at Green Bay less than a week ago.

Beckham dropped a career-high three passes in the Giants 38-13 loss to the Packers on Sunday, and more controversy followed: It was alleged that he punched a hole in a wall outside the Giants' locker room at Lambeau Field.

He was not in the locker room at the Giants' headquarters Monday to answer questions.

Coach Ben McAdoo said he became aware of the hole Monday, but he did not say who did it, adding he takes responsibility.

Reese said the Giants are investigating any potential vandalism and they would hold the appropriate party responsible for the damage.

He did not identify any suspects, but said he had a heart-to-heart talk Monday with Beckham, who was voted second team All-Pro after catching 101 passes this season for 1,367 yards and 10 touchdowns.

Reese has an outstanding relationship with Beckham, whose emotional play and passion annoys opponents and gets him into some ugly situations, highlighted by his run-in with Josh Norman in a game against Carolina in December 2015.



New York Giants' Odell Beckham (13) is sent flying after a hit by Philadelphia Eagles' Leodis McKelvin (21) during the second half of an NFL football game, Thursday, Dec. 22, 2016, in Philadelphia.

said of the team's response to the issue. He said he had a conversation with Beckham about the hole on Monday.

"The team takes full responsibility, I take full responsibility," McAdoo said. "That's no way to carry yourself after a ball game. Let's move on."

As far as the drops, McAdoo said Beckham will deal with them.

"That's something that is going to stick with him for a long time," said the rookie coach who led the Giants to an 11-5 record and their first playoff berth since 2011. "He'll learn from it. He'll grow from it. He'll bounce back."

Eli Manning has no concerns about Beckham.

"I think Odell is passionate. He's passionate and he wants to win," the Giants quarterback said. "This was important for him. He wanted to go out there and have the best game of his career. Maybe he put too much pressure on himself, and emphasis. Unfortunately, going to the playoffs is different."

A Packers spokesman said the team would not comment on any questions related to the hole in the wall.

The NFL did not immediately respond to an email from The Associated Press asking whether it was looking into the damage to the wall, and whether Beckham would be disciplined or have to pay for the damage if he was responsible.

He was suspended for a game by the NFL for being flagged for three personal fouls.

"I see a guy who needs to think about some of the things he does," Reese said. "Everyone knows he's a gifted player, but there's some things he's done that he needs to look in the mirror and be honest with himself about it. I think he'll do that. We'll help him with that, but he has to help himself."

Beckham was fined numerous times by the league this season, including more than \$72,000 in the first four games of 2016, with the biggest chunk a \$36,000 penalty for an illegal hit on Saints safety Kenny Vaccaro.

"We've all grown at different times in our lives, and it's time for him to grow," Reese said. "He's been here for three years now, and I think he'll do

that. He's a little bit of a lightning rod because of the things he does on and off the football field. He's gotta be responsible. I believe he understands that he has a responsibility being one of the faces of this franchise, and that he'll accept that responsibility."

McAdoo had no complaints about how Beckham practiced last week, and he felt Beckham played with tremendous effort

on Sunday. He said it was possible the receiver might have been pressing in dropping a touchdown pass and believes he will learn from it.

When asked if Beckham might have hurt his hand putting a hole in the wall, McAdoo said he had already answered a question on that topic.

"I don't condone putting holes in the wall," McAdoo

By **MARK LONG**
AP SPORTS WRITER

Jacksonville's coaching search landed someone from its past and present.

The Jaguars can only hope the old-school combination leads to better results in the future.

Owner Shad Khan hired Doug Marrone as head coach Monday and brought back Tom Coughlin to oversee football operations. Marrone replaces Gus Bradley, who was fired in late November after going 14-48 in three-plus seasons.

The Jaguars (3-13) also gave general manager Dave Caldwell a two-year contract extension. So Marrone, Coughlin and Caldwell are now signed through 2019, giving the new regime a three-year window to, at the very least, make Jacksonville relevant in the AFC South.

"I have confidence that one

Jaguars hire Marrone, bring back Coughlin, extend Caldwell

day soon we'll look back on today's news as the moment that inspired and ultimately established the Jacksonville Jaguars as a football team that wins, week to week and season to season," Khan said in a statement. "The results will speak for themselves in time, but with Tom coming in to join Dave and Doug, there is no question the Jacksonville Jaguars are a stronger football team today."

Marrone and Caldwell will report to Coughlin, meaning Jacksonville's first coach is now in charge and will have final say in personnel decisions.

Marrone is the fifth head coach in franchise history, following Coughlin (1995-2002), Jack Del Rio (2003-11), Mike Mularkey (2012) and Bradley (2013-16).

"I think Doug has earned the respect of the offensive players, and I'm excited for

him to get this opportunity and the direction of this team," quarterback Blake Bortles told AP in a text message.

Coughlin, a winner of two Super Bowls in 12 seasons with the New York Giants, will serve as executive vice president of football operations. Coughlin, who led the Jaguars to four playoff appearances in his first five years, will have final say in the NFL draft and in free agency. Caldwell has been the primary decision maker in all personnel moves the last four years.

"I am honored to welcome Tom Coughlin back to Jacksonville, where winning was customary under his leadership," Khan said. "I know he expects the same in his return to head our football operations, and that's good news for us and Jaguars fans everywhere. The extension of Dave Caldwell's contract speaks to

his excellent work thus far and the continued importance of complementing our talented and promising roster."

Khan, who hired Jed Hughes of Korn Ferry International to help with the search, also interviewed Atlanta offensive coordinator Kyle Shanahan, Tampa Bay defensive coordinator Mike Smith, New England offensive coordinator Josh McDaniels and Arizona offensive coordinator Harold Goodwin for the head coaching job.

He ended up keeping Marrone, who served as Jacksonville's interim coach for the final two games. The Jaguars won one and blew a late lead in the season finale at Indianapolis. Players seemed to rally around him, but after the loss to the Colts, rookie cornerback Jalen Ramsey said a "complete flip will serve us good."

Marrone and Coughlin could provide that. They sure-

ly will bring a different vibe, a much more disciplined approach that will put more emphasis on winning games than Bradley did.

"I can see what they're doing," veteran tight end Marcedes Lewis told AP. "These are good moves for a young team, a team that needs to be held to a certain standard. Marrone's a good man. He's good for the culture."

"It's not like we're bringing in a brand new coach and he's going to wipe the face of the earth of everything we've built."

Marrone likely will keep offensive coordinator Nate Hackett, providing some stability for the inconsistent Bortles. The 2014 first-round draft pick has had three play callers in three seasons.

Marrone has been Jacksonville's assistant head coach/offensive line coach since Janu-

ary 2015. He joined the team after two seasons as Buffalo's head coach. He guided the Bills to a 15-17 record before opting out of his contract because of uncertainty over potential organizational changes.

The Bills went 9-7 in Marrone's second season in 2014, the franchise's only winning record since 2004.

The 70-year-old Coughlin led the Jaguars to a 68-60 record in eight seasons. Coughlin resigned last January after a dozen years with the Giants, but made it clear he wanted to return to the NFL. He served as a senior adviser to the league's football operations department this season.

"He's got so much experience on myself or on any coach that we have in this building and he's a great individual, so I think you can always learn from people," Caldwell said after Bradley was fired. "There's always a place for knowledge."

Scherzer reveals he pitched since August with injured finger



AP
In this Oct. 13, 2016 file photo, Washington Nationals starting pitcher Max Scherzer throws to a Los Angeles Dodgers batter during the first inning of Game 5 of baseball's National League Division Series at Nationals Park in Washington.

WASHINGTON (AP)—NL Cy Young Award winner Max Scherzer revealed Monday that he pitched at the end of last season with an injured finger on his throwing hand and now will skip the World Baseball Classic. The Washington Nationals initially announced Monday on Twitter that their star right-hander has a stress fracture in the knuckle of his right ring finger, without offering any details of the problem. The team said the ongoing rehabilitation will keep Scherzer

off the U.S. team at the WBC, which is in March, but he is still “expected to be a full participant” at spring training, which starts next month. Later in the day, Scherzer posted his own statement on Twitter saying that he “experienced discomfort” in his right ring finger in late August and was told he had a sprained finger. “Since I was pain free during my starts and my performance and velocity were unaffected,” Scherzer wrote, “I continued to pitch.”

And pitch well: From Aug. 20 through Oct. 2, a span that covered his last nine starts of the regular season for the NL East champion Nationals, Scherzer went 8-0 with a 2.97 ERA and 73 strikeouts in 60 2/3 innings. In the NL Division Series against the Dodgers, Washington lost both of Scherzer’s starts, in Games 1 and 5. He said Monday that during the season, he and the Nationals’ medical staff figured rest would help resolve the issue with his finger.

But, Scherzer explained, the symptoms “had not dissipated” by last month, so he got a second MRI exam, which showed the stress fracture. He is currently

undergoing treatment. Scherzer went 20-7 with a 2.96 ERA and 284 strikeouts last season, including a record-tying 20 K’s in one game, be-

coming the sixth pitcher in major league history to win a Cy Young in both the NL and the AL (his came in 2013 for the Detroit Tigers).

DOCOMO

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Hayes was on target early, knocking 8 points in the first quarter to give Docomo a 20-11 advantage. Hayes continued hitting his mark in the last three periods and drew help from Manibusan and Sanciango to power Docomo to a 16-point winning margin.

In the last game on opening day, Westco withstood Konstruct Builders’ third-quarter rally and played steady in the fourth to win its debut in Pool B.

After trailing in the majority of the first half, Konstruct Builders managed to grab the upper hand from Westco, 37-36, after a completed 3-point play from Adnilo Sambidal

midway in the third period. However, Westco, which was scoreless in the first five minutes and change of the penultimate quarter, regrouped and regained the driver’s seat at the end of that canto, 46-39. Westco then kept its safe distance to foil Konstruct Builders’ repeated comeback bids in the final frame.

Second Game

Mariana Resort 90 – Sakisat 17, F. Lifofoi 12, Gechig 12, J. Lifofoi 11, Fidelino 10, Factor 9, , Abobo 6, Philips 6, Prado 5, Ermitanio 4.

Coca-Cola/Subway 44 – Armia 12, Oagasawara 8, Fejeran 7, Felix 6, Francisco 6, Ilo 5.

Scoring by quarters: 13-

11, 32-24, 57-38, 90-44.

Third Game

Docomo 74 – Hayes 22, Manibusan 16, Sanciango 13, Sablan 9, Griffin 6, Kaipat 4, Mendiola 1.

Triple J 58 – Olopai 23, Oris 19, Mamaril 6, Geli 6, Patron 2, Jarabe 2.

Scoring by quarters: 20-11, 36-25, 59-40, 74-58.

Fourth Game

Westco 61 – Illaji 18, Rejano 15, Landicho 9, Tolentino 8, Cortez 6, Gutierrez 5.

Konstrukt Builders 52 – Bernardo 16, Sabidal 14, Manalo 9, Poblete 9, Ayson 2, Lansang 2.

Scoring by quarters: 17-10, 36-28, 46-39, 61-52.

SARKISIAN

From Page 28

his new job at Florida Atlantic. That three-year pairing ended one game earlier than expected.

Mostly, Alabama stuck to the same offensive script - good and bad - as it had under Kiffin.

Freshman quarterback Jalen Hurts, the Southeastern Conference offensive player of the year, struggled to complete anything more than short passes most of the game. The Tide finished 2 of 15 on third downs, and only Scarbrough had much consistent success before going

down with a right leg injury late in the third quarter.

The biggest test for Sarkisian came with four minutes left and Alabama facing its first fourth-quarter deficit since last year’s title game against the Tigers. He passed that one with flying colors.

Alabama converted a fourth down with a Damien Harris run. Then Hurts threw a lateral to receiver ArDarius Stewart, a former high school quarterback who fired a 24-yard completion to tight end O.J. Howard.

Then Hurts did what he does best, running for a 30-yard touchdown that gave

‘Bama back the lead.

Despite Alabama’s inability to get any sustained drives going in the second half, the Crimson Tide offense played to mix reviews with Sarkisian on the sidelines.

Howard managed to get behind the Clemson defense on a terrific play call for a 68-yard touchdown from Hurts late in the third. Scarbrough ran for 93 yards and two long first-half touchdowns.

But Hurts was 13-of-31 passing for 131 yards to go with 63 rushing yards.

VIBES

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three games.

In the women’s division, IT&E got its first victory in two matches following a 32-11 triumph over Sun Palace (1-1).

U16 DIVISION

670 Sonics 54 – Itaas 15, Ordonia 11, Kintaro 10, Apasan 7, Cadag 3, Sabangan 3, De Guzman 2.

Rollers 2 24 – Je. Agulto 10, T. Factor 3, Duenas 3, Fitial 2, Ja. Agulto 2, A. Agulto 2, J. Factor 2.

Scoring by halves: 23-13, 54-24.

WOMEN’S DIVISION

IT&E 32 – Reyes 12, Tam 6, Flores 6, Travilla 2, Manibusan 2, Villagomez 2, Borja 2.

Sun Palace 11 – Pablo 5, Santos 4, Pena 2.

Scoring by halves: 16-1,

32-11.

U25 DIVISION

Vibes 69 – Schmidt 18, Duenas 13, Deleon Guerrero 9, Santos 7, Macahito 5, Gamab 4, Vivero 3, Urbano 3, Eubanks 2, Tudela 2.

Ol’Aces 2 66 – Castillo 14, Castro 8, Siech 8, Paragados 7, Norita 4, Olopai 4, Blake 4, Ngirarois 4.

Scoring by halves: 31-28, 69-66.

WATSON

From Page 28

baman and former Crimson Tide walk-on receiver, has built an elite program at Clemson that was missing only one thing. Now the Tigers can check that box, too.

“Eight years ago we set out to put Clemson back on top,” said Swinney, who can turn postgame interviews into a rousing sermon. “We came up a little short last year, but today on top of the mountain, the Clemson flag is flying.”

After three quarters of vicious hits and tight defense, Tigers-Tide II ended up looking a lot like the first meeting when the teams combined for 40 points in the fourth quarter.

Clemson took its first lead when Watson found Mike Williams for a 4-yard touchdown a minute into the fourth quarter to make it 24-21.

The Tigers took a 28-24 lead with 4:38 left in the fourth quarter when Wayne Gallman surged in from a yard out.

The Tide’s offense, which had gone dormant for most of the second half, came to life with the help of a sweet call from newly promoted offensive coordinator Steve Sarkisian. Receiver ArDarius Stewart took a backward pass from Jalen Hurts and fired a strike to O.J. Howard for 24 yards.

On the next play, Hurts broke free from a collapsing pocket and weaved his way through defenders for a 30-yard touchdown run to make it 31-28 with 2:07 left.

More than enough time for Watson.

“I was calm,” Watson said. He said he thought about Vince Young’s last-second touchdown for Texas that derailed the Southern California’s championship run in the 2005 championship game at the Rose Bowl. He told his team: “Let’s go be great.”

Watson hooked up with Williams and Jordan Leggett, who made great catches for big gains to get to first-and-goal with 14 seconds left.

A pass interference on Alabama made it first-and-goal at the 2 with six seconds left. Time for one more play to avoid a game-tying kick and potential overtime. Renfrow slipped away from the defense at the goal line with the help of some traffic created by his teammates—or maybe it was an illegal pick?—and was alone for an easy toss. It was the walk-on receiver’s second TD catch of the night, adding to the two he had last season against Alabama.

When it ended, Clemson’s 315-pound defensive lineman Christian Wilkins did a cartwheel and Ben Boulware, one of the toughest linebackers in the country, was in tears.

“Don’t call it an upset,” Swinney said. “We expected to win this game.”

The Tigers had snapped Alabama’s 26-game winning streak and beaten a No. 1 team for the first time ever.

“It’s been 35 long years!” Boulware screamed. “It’s coming home baby! It’s coming home!”

CLEMSON

From Page 28

Williams, Renfrow and Leggett redefined Clemsoning, the disparaging term used in recent years to describe the Tigers inexplicably delivering disappointing performances. The phrase might as well be buried at Raymond James Stadium.

The trio of receivers should get the honor of throwing on the last few shovels of dirt.

Renfrow caught the game-winner, a 2-yard reception with 1 second left that started a celebration that was a year in the making. He finished with 10 catches for 92 yards and two scores, adding to his legacy against the Tide.

Renfrow had seven catches for 88 yards and two scores in Clemson’s 45-40 loss to Alabama in last year’s title game in Arizona.

Williams and Leggett were just as good in the sequel.

The NFL-bound Williams, widely expected to be the first receiver selected in the draft, made two leaping catches in the final two touchdown drives. He had a 26-yarder in

front of Marlon Humphrey and then a 24-yarder against fellow cornerback Anthony Averett on the final drive. He also drew a pass interference penalty in the final seconds that set up Renfrow’s go-ahead TD catch.

Leggett may have had the play of the game, though. His diving reception on the final drive put Clemson on the 9-yard line with 14 seconds remaining. Without it, the game could have gone to overtime.

The three receivers torched Alabama’s vaunted defense in the second half, most of them on the receiving end of Watson’s 420 yards passing.

Williams caught eight passes for 94 yards. Leggett had seven receptions for 95 yards.

“I think they made some fantastic catches and some great throws and catches,” Alabama coach Nick Saban said. “And the last couple drives when they had the ball, we just didn’t make a play when we needed to. We needed to get a sack. We needed to get a take-away. We needed to get a stop in the red zone, and they made the plays and we didn’t.”

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES				
NBA STANDINGS				
EASTERN CONFERENCE				
Atlantic Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Toronto	24	13	.649	—
Boston	23	14	.622	1
New York	17	21	.447	7½
Philadelphia	10	25	.286	13
Brooklyn	8	28	.282	15½
Southeast Division				
Atlanta	21	16	.568	—
Charlotte	20	18	.526	1½
Washington	18	18	.500	2½
Orlando	16	23	.410	6
Miami	11	28	.282	11
Central Division				
Cleveland	28	8	.778	—
Indiana	20	18	.526	9
Milwaukee	18	18	.500	10
Chicago	19	19	.500	10
Detroit	18	21	.462	11½
WESTERN CONFERENCE				
Southwest Division				
San Antonio	30	7	.811	—
Houston	30	9	.769	1
Memphis	24	16	.600	7½
New Orleans	15	24	.385	16
Dallas	11	27	.289	19½
Northwest Division				
Utah	23	16	.590	—
Oklahoma City	23	16	.590	—
Portland	16	23	.410	7
Denver	14	23	.378	8
Minnesota	12	26	.316	10½
Pacific Division				
Golden State	32	6	.842	—
L.A. Clippers	26	14	.650	7
Sacramento	15	22	.405	16½
L.A. Lakers	15	26	.366	18½
Phoenix	12	26	.316	20
BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS				

Conatsu, Ji Min clinch titles in Aussie tourney

By **ROSELYN B. MONROYO**
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REPORTER

CNMI junior players Ji Min Woo and Conatsu ruled the consolation draw in their respective events in the 2017 Margaret Court Cup in Australia.

Woo won the pool after sweeping two opponents yesterday at the Albury Grasscourts in Albury, New South Wales. The Grace Christian Academy student first defeated Australia's Jay Coxon,

6-2, 6-0, in their semis showdown at the upper half of the consolation draw. With his Final Four win, Woo was then paired against another Aussie bet in Nicholas George Miloi, who made it to the finals following a 6-2, 6-1 victory over Isaac King.

In the finals, Woo and Miloi went back and forth in the first set with the former pulling some tricks from his bag to eke out a 7-6 (6) triumph. The tough win gave Woo momentum in the second set,



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The CNMI's Ji Min Woo proudly shows off his trophy after ruling the consolation draw of the boys U12 singles event in the 2017 Margaret Court Cup held in Australia.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The CNMI's Conatsu Kaga, left, poses with Australia Lara Wighton during the awards ceremony for the consolation draw in the girls U14 singles event in the 2017 Margaret Court Cup yesterday in Australia.

Docomo, Mariana Resort rout foes; Westco wins



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Westco's Abel Landicho pulls up for an open jumper as Konstruct Builders players are late on defense during the third quarter of their game in the JEM/Mobil caging last Sunday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

By **ROSELYN B. MONROYO**
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REPORTER

Mariana Resort, Docomo, and Westco won their debuts in the 2017 JEM Company Ltd./Mobil Customer Appreciation Basketball League last Sunday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

Mariana Resort whipped Coca-Cola Subway, 90-44, while Docomo had a similar easy victory against Triple J, 74-58. Westco completed the list of opening day winners following a 61-52 triumph over Konstruct Builders.

Bannered by young players, Mariana Resort broke the game wide open in the third quarter for a rousing start in Pool B of the 16-team league. Young guns Francisco Lifofoi, Joe Lifofoi, Jun Fidelino, and Prince Factor combined for 21 of Mariana Resort's 25 points in the third quarter, turning a 32-24 halftime edge to a 57-38 lead.

Melvin Sakisat, a former Kagman High School standout, then finished what his teammates started, scoring 8 straight points in the fourth canto to help Mariana Resort pull away further. Jeff Gechig, who had only 4 markers after three quarters, also stepped up in the fourth, tallying 8.

Sakisat went on to top-score for Mariana Resort with his 17 points, while five of his teammates also hit double figures. Only one Coca-Cola/Subway player broke into twin digits with Edward Armia making 12 markers.

In the Docomo-Triple J tiff in Pool A, the former drew good offensive games from Jason Hayes, Mel Manibusan, and Robert Sanciangco to east past the latter.

Hayes had a team-high 22 points, while Manibusan and Sanciangco chipped in 16 and 13, respectively.

See DOCOMO on Page 26

which he easily won, 6-2, to top the pool, which featured players who missed the third round of the main draw. The CNMI player prevailed in his first round match in the main draw after blanking Australia's Zachary David Reid in their opening match, 6-0, 6-0. Woo was then booted out in the second round by No. 3 Cooper Glen Wilkinson, 2-6, 2-6, dropping the former to the consolation draw.

Woo capitalized on his second chance, sweeping his last five games in the singles event of the tournament named after Margaret Court, a legendary Australian tennis player who

still holds the record in Grand Slam singles titles (24). Woo's three other victories were against Australia George Georgakas, 6-0, 6-3, Fiji's Storm Cornish, 6-0, 6-2, and main draw No. 9 seed Etienne Marais Horak, 6-2, 6-2.

The 12-year-old Woo also played in the doubles event yesterday, but he and fellow CNMI player Seung Jin Paik fell to No. 1 seeds Charlie Camus and Wilkinson in the quarterfinals. Though they lost, the Commonwealth players forced their top-ranked foes to an extended game after winning the



second set, 6-3. Camus and Wilkinson took the first set in a similar score and avoided the upset axe of Woo and Paik after posting a 10-3 win in the super tiebreaker third set.

In the girls U14 consolation draw, Conatsu won all her three games yesterday to earn the championship in the group. She defeated Abbey Colbourne, 7-5, 6-0, and Natasha Phillips-Edgar, 6-2, 5-7, 10-4, in her back-to-back morning matches to move into the finals. In the title match in the afternoon, Conatsu dominated Lara Wighton, 6-2, 6-2.

Meanwhile, from Albury,

Conatsu along with her sibling Coume, Paik, Woo, Ken Song, and Malikawa Miyawaki headed to Victoria yesterday to play in the 2017 Victorian Junior Grasscourt Championships.

The grasscourt event will be held at the Wodonga Tennis Centre with the first round matches to start today. Again, Woo and Paik will compete in the U12 singles and doubles, while the four other CNMI players are entered in the U14 division contests. The six CNMI players are in the Land Down Under competing as part of the elite Pacific Oceania Touring Team.

Vibes steals win from Ol'Aces 2

By **ROSELYN B. MONROYO**
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REPORTER

Vibes grabbed a victory from the Ol'Aces 2, 69-66, during their U25 division game in the 2016 TanHoldings Christmas Basketball Tournament last Monday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

Matt Duenas canned a back-breaking triple, while Ted Vivero hit insurance free throws to hand the win to Vibes, which trailed by 5 points, 58-63, going into the last two minutes of the match.

Vibes started the comeback by making six charities—three from Jesse Santos, one from Franklin Macahito, and two from Matt—against the 3 points of the Ol'Aces (a field goal from Troy Ngararois and split free throw from R.J. Paragados).

Matt, who went 1-for-2 in his first two trips at the foul line in the last two minutes, drilled his third attempt to move Vibes within 2 points, 64-66, with 34.6 seconds remaining in the game. He muffed his fourth, while the Ol'Aces 2's Paragados took the rebound. Paragados then

dribbled past three Vibes defenders and crossed mid-court, however, when he made the turn, Duenas slightly tapped the ball away and the former eventually lost possession.

Ariel Urbano picked up the loose ball and found Santos open at the corner, but the lat-

ter was gun shy and opted to kick the ball out to Duenas, who did not hesitate and popped for a triple from the left key. His shot hitting nothing but the bottom of the net and gave Vibes the lead, 67-66, 21.9 seconds to go in the match.

The Ol'Aces 2 went for a



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Vibes' Douglas Schmidt, left, uses a pick from teammate Ariel Urbano to dribble out of trouble, but still faces Ol'Aces 2's N-Nes Siech during the closing minutes of their game in the U25 division of the TanHoldings holiday caging last Monday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

quick inbound and Ngararois unloaded a wide-open triple, but faltered. Vibes got the rebound and the Ol'Aces 2 was forced to give up a preemptive foul that sent Vivero to the stripe. Vivero went on to hit 2-for-2 from the 15-foot line for his only baskets in the game and Vibes stretched the lead to 3, 69-66, 6.1 ticks left in the final canto.

The Ol'Aces 2 sued for time and needed a triple to send the game into overtime, but failed to do so. The Ol'Aces did not even have a chance to make an attempt, as N-Nes Siech dribbled longer than instructed and when he decided to pass the ball to Jeffrey Castro, who was waiting for the throw at the right corner, time has nearly ran out. Siech eventually threw a wild pass and the ball went out as time expired.

Meanwhile, the 670 Sonics and IT&E cruised to victories in their respective games.

In the boys U16 division, the 670 Sonics topped Rollers 2, 54-24. The 670 Sonics now has a 4-0 record to tie idle Rollers 1 for first place in the team standings, while Rollers 2 has yet to win after

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE



AP
Clemson's Hunter Renfrow is congratulated by teammate Deon Cain after catching a touchdown pass during the second half of the NCAA college football playoff championship game against Alabama Monday, Jan. 9, 2017, in Tampa, Fla.

Watson and Clemson dethrone top-ranked Tide

By RALPH D. RUSSO
AP COLLEGE FOOTBALL WRITER

TAMPA, Fla. (AP)—College football's first national championship rematch was even better than the original, with an incredible twist at the end.

Deshaun Watson and Clemson dethroned the champs and became the first team to beat Nick Saban's Alabama dynasty in a national title game, taking down the top-ranked Crimson Tide 35-31 Monday night in the College Football Playoff.

Watson found Hunter Renfrow for a 2-yard touchdown pass with a second remaining to give the Tigers their first national championship since 1981. A year after Alabama won its fourth title under Saban with a 45-40 classic in Arizona, Clemson closed the deal and denied the Tide an unprecedented fifth championship in eight seasons.

"That has to be one of the greatest games of all time," Clemson coach Dabo Swinney said.

The lead changed hands three times in the fourth quarter, but Watson got the ball last. Likely playing in his final college game, the junior quarterback threw for 420 yards and three touchdowns. In two games against Alabama and the most ferocious defense in college football, Watson has thrown for 825 yards and accounted for eight touchdowns. He was sacked four times and

took some cringe-inducing shots from All-Americans Jonathan Allen and Reuben Foster.

"You know, I never got the



**NATIONAL
CHAMPIONSHIP**
TAMPA BAY 2017

sense that he was rattled," Allen said about Watson.

Swinney, the native Ala-

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Clemson's receiver trio comes up big vs. Bama in title game



AP
Clemson's Mike Williams catches a pass in front of Alabama's Marlon Humphrey during the second half of the NCAA college football playoff championship game Tuesday, Jan. 10, 2017, in Tampa, Fla.

By MARK LONG
AP SPORTS WRITER

TAMPA, Fla. (AP)—Mike Williams took a few steps backward after the final snap, flopped to the ground and waited for the confetti to start falling.

It was his least acrobatic move of the night.

Williams, Hunter Renfrow and Jordan Leggett were every bit as integral to Clemson's first national

championship since 1981 as quarterback and offensive MVP Deshaun Watson.

Watson's trio of dynamic receivers made big play after big play, clutch catch after clutch catch, and helped the Tigers upset Alabama 35-31 in the title game Monday night.

"This is what it's all about right here, boys," Clemson coach Dabo Swinney said.

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Sarkisian dials up magical drive but Bama loses in his debut

By JOHN ZENOR
AP SPORTS WRITER

TAMPA, Fla. (AP)—Steve Sarkisian dialed up a timely trick play, a pass that worked to perfection and plenty of hand-offs to Bo Scarbrough.

The combination nearly added up to a triumphant debut for Sarkisian as Alabama's offensive coordinator—on the biggest stage in college football. Almost.

Eight days after jumping into the job, his offense struggled mightily in the second half but produced a go-ahead touchdown with 2:07 left that wasn't quite enough in



AP
Alabama offensive coordinator Steve Sarkisian watches from the sidelines during the second half of the NCAA college football playoff championship game against Clemson Monday, Jan. 9, 2017, in Tampa, Fla.

Monday night's 35-31 loss to Clemson in the national championship game.

For a change, the nation's top defense couldn't overcome the Tide's offensive deficiencies. Deshaun Watson hit Hunter Renfrow for the winning 2-yard touchdown with 1 second left.

Sarkisian, a former USC and Washington head coach, was given the reins of the Tide offense a day after the Peach Bowl when coach Nick Saban ushered Lane Kiffin on to

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